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ARAB TIMES

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MONDAY, MAY 1, 1989

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NEWSWATCH

Crackdown

ANKARA, April 30, (Reuters): Turkey has cancelled police leave in major cities and rounded up pamphleteers in a crackdown on traditional May Day rallies tomorrow, security sources said today.

They said protest rallies had been banned in Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul, where two people died last year in the most violent May Day protests since an Army coup in 1980.

Many of 600,000 disgruntled union workers, demanding wage rises of more than 200 per cent over two years to compensate for inflation, had planned to attend rallies in the three cities.

Istanbul police chief Hamdi Ardali said all precautions had been taken to prevent illegal rallies.

Joint move

LONDON, April 30, (KUNA): British and American intelligence services are to collaborate with the Russian KGB in an unprecedented bid to combat world terrorism, it was claimed here today.

The popular British newspaper, The Mail on Sunday, said the move is to pool the resources of the Soviet secret service with those of Britain's MI6 and America's CIA come from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the Lockerbie jumbo jet disaster. The move is also seen as a "radical result" of the Russian policy of glasnost, it added.

Tornado kills 10

NEW DELHI, April 30, (AP): A tornado swept through areas around a missile launch site in eastern India, leaving at least 10 people dead and more than 100 injured, the United News of India reported today.

The news agency said Friday's tornado also blew away about 20,000 trees in the district of Belgaon in Orissa state.

The storm came two days after a tornado pounded central Bangladesh, leaving at least 786 people dead and 12,000 others injured.

The storm, however, has not affected preparations for the launch of India's first intermediate-range ballistic missile.

\$1,000 stolen

MANILA, April 30, (AP): Thieves took nearly \$1,000 from Jennifer Beal's hotel room while the actress was on location shooting the movie "Madonna and the Dragon," police said.

Beal, 25, best known for starring in the 1983 hit "Flashdance," discovered the theft when she returned to her room at the fashionable Manila Pavilion Hotel late Monday night, said police Sgt. Potenciano Gregorio.

"Beal said she left some 23,000 pesos in three envelopes inside her purse while she went out to shoot some scenes for her new movie," Gregorio said. "But when she returned, she only found 2,500 pesos (\$125) left."

Saudi denial

RIYADH, April 30, (KUNA): A Saudi official last night denied a press report saying that 30 citizens from Arab Republic of Yemen were arrested in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Press Agency quoted the Saudi official as saying that the report, which was published by weekly magazine Al Kaffah Al Arabi in Beirut yesterday, are not true and baseless.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

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Pope embraces Africa

Pope John Paul II has called on the youths of troubled Madagascar, torn last week by rioting, to reject violence and defend social justice.

On Saturday, the first full day of his nine-day African tour, the Pope referred often to the social and economic problems that contributed to last week's anti-government riots in which six people

were killed.

John Paul appealed on Saturday to 20,000 youths, packed into the Alarobia soccer stadium, Antananarivo, to work peacefully to improve their country's problems.

The Pope hugs (above) two poor girls. (Reuters wirephoto)

New traffic regulation

Fitness test at garages

VEHICLES will be tested for fitness at certain private garages according to an Interior Ministry decision published in the official gazette yesterday.

Previously, technical testing was performed at various traffic department offices.

The garages which will accept the cars — must have a licence from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as all the necessary equipment for testing. The garages must also be located in place where traffic movement will not be hampered.

All such workshops will be supplied with industrial safety equipment, and each will have a representative from the traffic department to carry out routine procedures.

Workshops that violate the rules are subjected to licence withdrawal. The role of the Traffic Department in this case will be to supervise, check and search the workshops.

Sind partition?

Ethnic strife

HYDERABAD, Pakistan, April 30, (Reuters): Ali, a successful professional man, is thinking of leaving his gracious, colonnaded house in the centre of Hyderabad.

"I am a Sindhi, this is a mohajir area," is his simple explanation. Ali's story is repeated throughout Pakistan's southern province of Sind. Frightened by the prospect of ethnic violence, people are separating into their own communities and the province of 24 million people is threatening to disintegrate.

Thousands of mohajirs, immigrants from India, are abandoning their homes and businesses in the small towns along the Indus River, according to community spokesmen.

They are moving mainly to the giant metropolis of Karachi where the organised political power and Kalashnikov assault rifles of their militants give them greater security.

The province has a history of unrest and most of the 900 people killed in the past two and a half years died in fighting between mohajirs and Pashtuns from the north.

Now mohajir-Sindhi strife has come to the fore. At least 60 people have died in five cities and towns since March 10 and more violence is widely expected.

"The situation here is explosive," said Hyderabad's mohajir mayor Aftab Sheikh, who still carries three bullets in his body from an assassination attempt a year ago.

"The militias are there, the private armies are there," leading Sindhi politician Hamida Khuro said. "It is getting to be a Beirut situation — people are moving into separate ethnic zones."

The problem is rooted in the partitioning of British India in 1947 into predominantly Hindu India and Islamic Pakistan. Many urban Sindhis were Hindus, who left for India en masse.

Their place was taken by Urdu-speaking Muslims who migrated to Pakistan from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other Indian states. The mohajirs (refugees) as they became known, were mainly middle class and tended to be better-educated than the Sindhis.

They rocketed onto the political scene in 1985 when the muscular Mohajir National Movement (MQM) was formed.

Hard-line mohajirs want to turn Karachi, which has a population of about eight million, into a fifth province.

Sindhi nationalists want more autonomy — some say independence — and controls on migration.

Some of the bloodshed is clearly pre-planned, as when gunmen sprayed bullets in several mohajir areas of Hyderabad simultaneously last September, killing almost 200 people.

UN urged to help secure Israeli withdrawal

Withdrawal

GENEVA, April 30, (Agencies): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said yesterday the presence of Israeli forces in southern Lebanon was an obstacle to Arab League efforts to stop the civil war.

He said Syrian troops would withdraw only when the situation returned to normal.

Sheikh Sabah, who returned to Kuwait last night, told reporters after a 45-minute meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in Geneva he had asked for UN help to secure an Israeli withdrawal.

"Continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is not permitting us to find a quick solution to the Lebanese problem," he said.

Sheikh Sabah, who negotiated a ceasefire that ended six weeks of fighting between Christian-led forces and Syrian troops, said all foreign forces should leave Lebanon.

"And for this reason we are asking the UN, and particularly the secretary-general, to help us to secure Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon," he said.

Israeli troops and an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia have controlled a "security zone" in south Lebanon since 1985, when the bulk of Israeli troops who invaded in 1982 withdrew.

Asked whether his understanding of foreign forces included Syria, he replied: "Syria is not a foreign country, it is an Arab country and a member of the Arab League."

"But certainly they will leave Lebanon once the situation becomes more stable," he added.

Syrian and Druze gunmen sporadically shelled the coastline of the Christian enclave today, sharpening a dispute over blockaded seaports that has strained the two-day-old truce.

Police said at least 40 shells and rockets crashed on a 10-mile (16-kilometre) strip of beach between the ports of Jounieh and Byblos between midnight and midday (2200 and 1000 GMT) paralyzing shipping activity in both harbours.

Debt problem will be solved

Revitalising economy is the aim

KUWAIT, April 30, (Agencies): An official source at the diwan of HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah pointed out today that the government is keen on tackling the small debtors problem within the context of overall programme of revitalising the national economy.

In a written statement given to KUNA, the source recalled that Sheikh Saad had emphasised in recent press remarks the government's concern with resolving the small debts problem within the framework of comprehensive plans to reactivate the domestic economy.

"The overriding objective of government action is not resolving the problem of individuals or groups, but revitalising the economy, boosting its activities and efficacy," the source went on.

In his press remarks, including an interview with the editor-in-chief of a local newspaper, the Crown Prince had pointed out that the government would give attentive reading to a memorandum to be presented by president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Al Saqr, the source indicated.

Her added that the memorandum contains views of committees formed to study the economic situation in the country and coming up with proposals for reactivating all sectors of the national economy.

Sheikh Saad had been reported as saying that the economic situation topped the priorities of his cabinet and disclosed that the government has drawn clear programmes for resolving economic recession and combating other obstacles and difficulties facing various economic sectors.

He said the government opted not to implement those economic programmes pending consultations with the private sector to take their viewpoint into consideration "so as to have realistic, effective and comprehensive solutions."

Sheikh Saad said a meeting for Kuwait economist and businessmen was held late last January.

The Crown Prince has an absolute concern and conviction that any economic measures should follow careful, realistic and comprehensive studies involving all competent circles and parties, the source said.

He concluded that proposed solutions should be fair to everyone, stand in the public interest, and should have the overriding objective of revitalizing economic activities.

Sheikh Saad will visit Jordan tomorrow, it was announced today.

Sheikh Saad's visit springs from the distinct fraternal ties between Kuwait and Jordan and embodies the deep-rooted historic links between the two brotherly peoples.



A tornado victim feeds his injured child in front of his wrecked house. (Reuters wirephoto)

Relief for tornado-hit people

Food airdropped

DHAKA, April 30, (UPI): Search and rescue operations were replaced by relief programmes in tornado-stricken Bangladesh today where over 1,100 people were killed by the mighty tornado and thousands are still missing, officials said.

Heavy storms continued for a third day today in the tornado-hit areas, hampering rescue operations.

Storms in the southern districts of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajbar flattened eight villages.

Three more died in Chittagong today when their home collapsed on them, bringing the villages' death toll to 10. More than 50 have been injured and 3,000 houses destroyed in the area in the torrential rains.

On the nearby Jamuna river, nearly 20 boats sank yesterday with 40 fishermen aboard.

Officials said food and clothing was airdropped today on Daulatpur, one of the areas in the Manikganj district worst hit by Wednesday's tornado.

Opposition political leaders had criticised government relief operations, saying desperately needed aid was slow to reach the estimated 100,000 left homeless by the tornado.

Two guards of Aquino shot dead

Communist hitmen suspected



People lifting the body of one of Aquino's guards shot dead yesterday.

MANILA, April 30, (AP): Suspected communist hitmen gunned down two members of Philippine President Corazon Aquino's security group in Manila today, police said.

Police said six men approached Cpl. Troy Lampreya and Pfc. Clemente Requene after they had boarded their jeep and shot them in the head before dragging them out of the vehicle.

The attackers shot the soldiers again as they lay on the ground, police added.

Cpl. Rodolfo Janer, a police investigator, said the gunmen warned onlookers not to interfere and said they were members of the New People's Army.

Janer said the attackers took an M-16 rifle from the slain soldiers and fled aboard a commandeered jeep. Another presidential guard, Cpl. Clemente Rapanot, escaped the attack, he said.

The shooting took place about two kilometres (1.2 miles) from the presidential palace, Janer said.

The victims had just finished buying goods at the nearby market when they were attacked, Janer said.

Lampreya and Requene were members of the Presidential Security Group, an elite command that guards the President and foreign dignitaries.

Reducing expats

Selective immigration considered

By Hussain Salameh

SELECTIVE immigration is being considered by the demographic policies committee as a way of reducing expatriate manpower, increasing the contribution of nationals in the workforce, and ultimately increasing the percentage of Kuwaitis in the population of the country, according to Higher Planning Council General Secretary Fuad Mulla Hussain.

The committee is studying the use of the most effective and qualified non-Kuwaitis in the workforce, he said, with a view to considering them for nationality. It is the committee's task to reconcile the country's immigration policy with its demographic and national policies, as well as the actual need for qualified personnel with the quality of manpower entering the country, he said.

The committee has studied this issue in conjunction with officials from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, who have been attending the committee's meeting.

The Higher Planning Council is also studying the real estate market and its importance and influence in the national economy in general, Hussain said.

Arms sales to Saudis investigated

Investigation

LONDON, April 30, (Reuters): Authorities are investigating Britain's biggest arms deal following bribery allegations over contracts with Saudi Arabia worth £20 billion (\$34 billion), the Observer newspaper said today.

Investigators are looking at claims that huge commission payments, alleged to have been made to British Aerospace (BAE) agents, inflated the export sale price of Tornado fighter bombers, the paper said.

The Ministry of Defence would only say that the National Audit Office (NAO), a public watchdog, was carrying out a routine examination of the account.

"The NAO exists to examine" all such projects and this doesn't necessarily imply that there is anything wrong with it," the spokesman said.

DAY BY DAY

SEPARATION and delineation of job responsibilities in the ministries is urgently needed.

Many ministries overlap their job functions in some areas. This leads to bottlenecks and obstacles sometimes, as in cases where one authority in a ministry accepts an applicant and another authority rejects it.

Sometimes one fails to determine who is truly responsible for processing some work.

Urgency should be the factor in solving this problem of overlapping in ministries responsibilities.

Zahed Matar

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Amir sends messages to Senegal, Mauritania as looting frenzy grips Dakar



A Senegalese soldier searches through the hair of a Mauritanian woman before being taken to the airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

TUNIS, April 30, (Agencies): A special envoy of HH the Amir of Kuwait left here today for Mauritania and Senegal to deliver messages to the leaders of the two countries from the Amir.

The Amir sent the messages in his capacity as chairman of the current session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The envoy, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammed Al Osaimeh is carrying messages on the violent clashes between the citizens of the two neighbouring Islamic countries which resulted in the killing of more than 400 people.

Youths stormed through the Senegal capital of Dakar in a frenzied day of looting Mauritanian shops, as international aircraft assembled to evacuate thousands of Mauritanian and Senegalese refugees from communal riots.

Security forces in this city of two million people fired bursts of tear-gas throughout yesterday as youths smashed and burned the few Mauritanian businesses still intact.

The death toll from rioting against Mauritians rose to 38, including two babies brought to one mortality with smashed skulls.

A number of countries such as France, Morocco and Spain dispatched planes to shuttle refugees between Senegal and Mauritania.

Diplomats in Dakar said Moroccan planes had already started to evacuate refugees from both countries.

Senegal's President Abdou Diouf strongly condemned what he called "the inhuman and degrading treatment" inflicted on Senegalese in Mauritania. But the stern-faced President, who earlier visited the first Senegalese refugees taken to hospital, appealed for an end to revenge.

'Britons disenchanted with Thatcher'

LONDON, April 30, (AP): Two public opinion polls published today reveal growing public disenchantment with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as she approaches 10 years in power.

In a Harris poll commissioned by The Observer newspaper, 40 per cent of the respondents said they would like Thatcher to retire immediately, eight per cent said she should go within a year and 10 per cent want her to step down before the next election.

But 30 per cent of those polled said they think it will be five to 10 years before Thatcher retires and 28 per cent predicted she would die in office. Thatcher was elected prime minister from the Conservative party 10 years ago on Thursday. She was re-elected in 1983 and 1987.

NATO rift Thatcher, Kohl meet on arms policy

DEIDESHEIM, West Germany, April 30, (Reuters): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who are on opposite sides of a deep NATO rift, met today to discuss the alliance's nuclear arms policy.

Thatcher, one of the strongest critics of Kohl's call for East-West negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles, arrived this morning for a working lunch and talks in this picturesque West German town in the wine country near Ludwigshafen.

She and Kohl walked through a crowd dotted with British and West German flags as well as a few banners protesting against NATO missiles and entered a rustic hotel for their talks.

Washington and London vigorously oppose Kohl's call for early talks with the Warsaw Pact on cutting back short-range Nuclear missile Forces (SNF) in Europe.

They want NATO to upgrade its ageing Lance short-range missile and see negotiations as a slippery slope towards the possible withdrawal of all nuclear forces from Europe.

This, they argue, would leave NATO, which marks its 40th anniversary with a summit meeting on May 29-30, vulnerable to the Warsaw Pact's superiority in tanks and troops.

Kohl, whose stumbling coalition government has no single stand more popular with West German voters than its missile policy, restated Bonn's view in a major speech to parliament in Bonn on Thursday.

Each side has been consulting with other NATO members to promote its view. Thatcher met the Italian and Dutch prime ministers in London in the past two days and Kohl meets his Italian counterpart in Rome on Tuesday.

US Navy phasing out some missiles

NEW YORK, April 30, (Reuters): The US Navy is quietly phasing out the three types of short-range nuclear missiles it would use for sea warfare, the New York Times reported today.

But it said the Navy was not giving up all its nuclear weapons and remained strongly committed to sea-based long-range Cruise missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

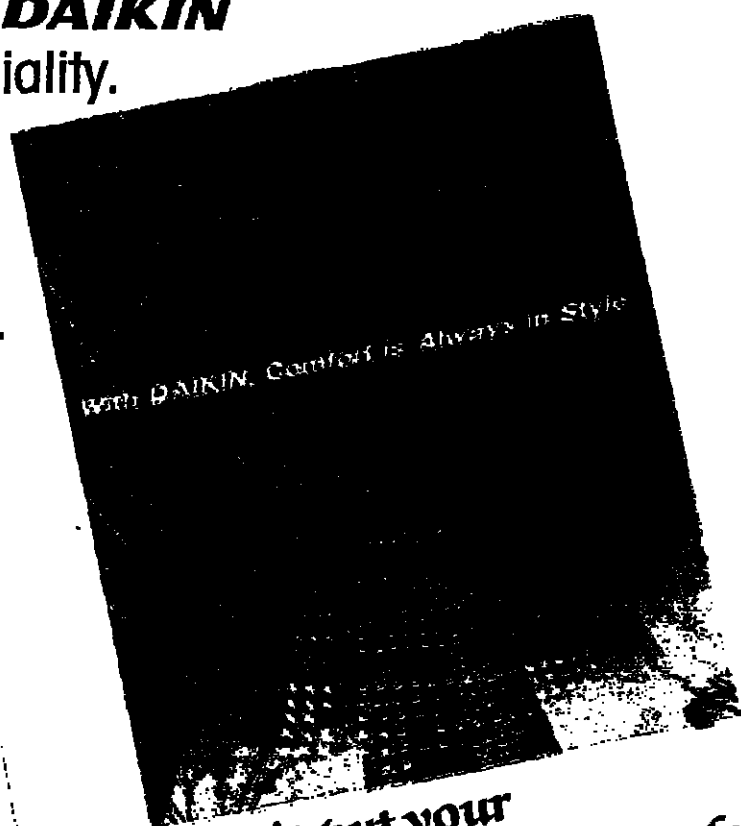
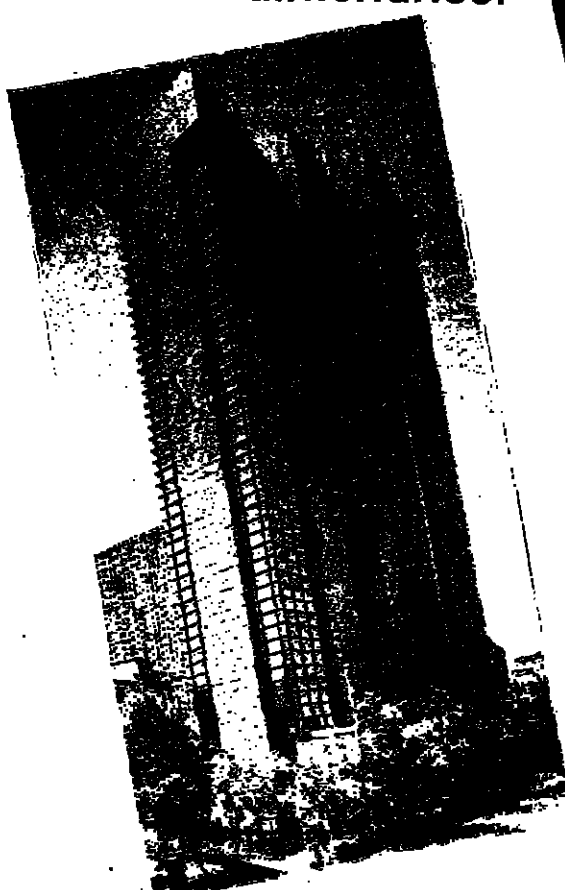
The Times described the move as an important change in the Navy's military thinking.

Comment was not immediately available from defence officials.

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A South Korean student hurls a petrol bomb at riot police squads camped outside the gates of Seoul National University in an anti-government rally on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Seoul students in street battles 1,300 detained

SEOUL, April 30, (AP): Students and workers fought riot police with firebombs and rocks in running street battles today and troops arrested more than 1,300 people after authorities blocked a May Day labour rally.

Bands of protesters battled riot police in scattered clashes in several areas in central Seoul after the government deployed 20,000 riot police to block the rally called by labour and dissident groups on the eve of the international labour holiday.

Police officials, who declined to be named, said about 1,300 people had been arrested and dozens were injured in the clashes. Clashes were reported in Incheon, west of Seoul, and in Kwangju, in the southeast.

Police fired warning shots into the air with pistols in Sungnam, on Seoul's southern outskirts, when about 200 workers and students tried to firebomb a police station, police said. Five officers were injured in the attack.

President Roh Tae-woo's government has warned it may take emergency steps to halt a nationwide wave of strikes that has cost more than \$3 billion in lost production this year. Government leaders are worried that labour unrest could cripple the economy and foment political unrest.

About 10,000 conservative veterans who served with South Korean forces in South Vietnam during the Vietnam war staged a peaceful rally in southern Seoul to denounce what they said was a growing leftist threat to the nation. South Korea supported the United States during the Vietnam war.

Police had no overall figures on the number of protesters in Seoul, but it appeared below 10,000. Rally organisers had claimed that 100,000 people would take part, and the low turnout appeared to be a setback for the dissident groups.

The worst fighting raged for about four hours around Yonsei University in western Seoul. About 2,000 students and workers tried to march out even though 5,000 riot police surrounded the campus. Protesters, many armed with clubs and iron pipes, wore red headbands and carried red flags as they marched to the beat of drums and gongs.

"Knock down the dictatorship that suppresses the masses," marchers chanted. "Down with the fascist regime."

Police armoured vans opened fire with multiple tear gas launchers before the marchers reached the main gate. Enraged students charged out of the campus and pelted police with hundreds of firebombs and rocks.

The police vans fired volley after volley at the charging protesters and police repeatedly charged to drive the attackers back into the campus. Thick white clouds of choking gas cloaked the campus.

House would soon ask Congress to make it a crime for any airline flying in and out of the United States to leak information received from the US government about terrorist threats.

Four people who ran more than 400 miles (644 kilometres) from London to Scotland to honour those killed in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, sprinted around a Glasgow soccer stadium yesterday before a cheering crowd.

Eleanor Bright from Brookline, Massachusetts, whose husband was killed in the Dec 21 disaster, said she will join the four today for the last stretch of the run into the town of Lockerbie, where the jumbo jet crashed and killed all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Bush administration officials were not immediately available for comment on the report.

US News and World report said Skinner also told aviation officials during a week-long European trip that the White

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Boat capsizes

TOKYO, April 30, (AP): One Peruvian died and four others were missing after their lifeboat capsized in rough seas today as they were leaving a cargo ship that was taking on water off the northern coast of Japan, the Maritime Safety Agency said.

An official of the MSA, Japan's Coast Guard, said 10 of the 26 Peruvian crew members were being transferred by lifeboat from the 6,896-ton Peruvian ship Yacuasi to the 3,198-ton Japanese freighter Kyokushin-Maru in the Pacific ocean.

Taiwan officials

TAIPEI, April 30, (Reuters): Nationalist Chinese officials left Taiwan today for an unprecedented journey to China to attend an Asian Development Bank meeting but ruled out the possibility of holding talks with Beijing leaders.

Finance Minister Shirley Kuo, who is heading the high-level delegation, told a news conference the only purpose of the visit was to attend the annual meeting of the Regional Development Bank.

Ties ruled out

CAPE TOWN, April 30, (Reuters): Vyacheslav Ustinov, the first official Soviet visitor to South Africa for 33 years, received a top-level reception during a four-day stay ending today but ruled out moves to set up diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

He said in an interview with Reuters he was in South Africa only to observe talks with Cuba and Angola on Namibian independence, but he left the door open for further contacts between Moscow and Pretoria.

Uno for Moscow

TOKYO, April 30, (UPI): Japanese Foreign Minister Susuke Uno left Tokyo for Moscow today to resume high-level talks with Soviet leaders on territorial dispute over four north Pacific islands that has blocked improvement of relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Uno will confer with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Wednesday on ways to improve bilateral relations and exchange views on the international situation, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The meeting will be the ninth regular Soviet-Japanese foreign minister's conference.

Princess dies

SEOUL, April 30, (UPI): Princess Bangja, alias Masako, Japanese wife of the last Prince of the Yi dynasty which ruled Korea until 1909 when the country was conquered by Japan, died today of an illness, a family spokesman said. She was 88.

Her husband, Prince Eun, son of King Kojong, who died shortly before Korea fell under Japanese colonial rule, was born in 1897 and was taken to Japan as a hostage when he was 11 years old.

False signal

PORT DOUGLAS, Australia, April 30, (UPI): An airplane carrying Vice President Dan Quayle touched down safely yesterday in the Australian resort city of Cairns after a warning light indicated a possible engine fire, a spokesman said.

In Washington, Craig Whitney, Quayle's deputy press secretary, said the pilots of the Boeing 707 airliner dubbed Air Force Two received what proved to be a false signal that one of its engines was on fire.

Fire kills eight

SEOUL, April 30, (UPI): Eight children ranging from three to 16 in age were burned to death in a fire in a provincial city early today, news reports said.

The fire started at about 2 am (1700 GMT Saturday) at a house in Kwangju 170 miles (274 km) south of Seoul, radio and television news reports said.

The children were keeping the house while their parents were out with visiting relatives for dinner, the reports said. Police were investigating the cause of the fire.

Rodriguez accused

ASUNCION, April 30, (Reuters): Paraguayan opposition presidential candidate Domingo Laíno has accused acting President Andres Rodriguez of employing the same tactics as toppled dictator Alfredo Stroessner to secure victory in elections tomorrow.

Turret misfired

NORFOLK, Virginia, April 30, (AP): The USS Iowa's No. 1 gun turret had a misfire in one of its 16-inch guns shortly before the battleship's No. 2 turret exploded on April 19, killing 47 sailors, a survivor said.

Shuttle Atlantis

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, April 30, (UPI): Fixing the grounded shuttle Atlantis will delay a second launch try for about one week, NASA said yesterday, in a frustrating setback for the agency's plans to fire a sophisticated science probe to Venus.

Leone dies

ROME, April 30, (AP): Sergio Leone, a critically acclaimed director who was a main figure of the "Spaghetti Western" period, died today of Italian state radio reported.

Leone, who was 60, died of a heart attack at home at about 2 am (0000 GMT), according to the radio and the Italian news agency ANSA.

Japan accused of abusing immigrants

BANGKOK, April 30, (AP): An open letter to Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita today, the second day of his visit to Thailand, accused Japan of abusing migrant workers and selfishly exploiting Thailand's economy and natural resources.

Thailand is the first stop on Takeshita's nine-day tour of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations members. It is likely to be his last trip abroad as premier. Takeshita announced yesterday he will resign shortly over an influence-peddling scandal.

Takeshita played golf with Thailand's Prime

Minister Chatichai Choonhavan at the Navathane course on the eastern outskirts of Bangkok early today. They are to hold talks tomorrow, likely focusing on the Kampuchean conflict and on Thailand's mounting trade deficit with Japan.

The letter, printed in the English-language Thai newspaper The Nation, was from several prominent academics and others from the Thai-Japanese citizens forum of the leading Chulalongkorn University. Its complaints were similar to those frequently made by the Thai government and the media.

Minister Chatichai Choonhavan at the Navathane course on the eastern outskirts of Bangkok early today. They are to hold talks tomorrow, likely focusing on the Kampuchean conflict and on Thailand's mounting trade deficit with Japan.

The letter, printed in the English-language Thai newspaper The Nation, was from several prominent academics and others from the Thai-Japanese citizens forum of the leading Chulalongkorn University. Its complaints were similar to those frequently made by the Thai government and the media.

Takeshita played golf with Thailand's Prime

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INTERNATIONAL

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Lemurs
Three lemurs sit on the grass at Tsimbazaza botanical gardens in Antananarivo. Lemurs, primitive primates which look like a cross between the monkey and the squirrel, are found mainly in Madagascar and other islands of the Indian Ocean. (Reuters wirephoto)

Victims helpless
Bring back death penalty: Trump

NEW YORK, April 30, (UPI): Billionaire developer Donald Trump said yesterday he was taking out full page advertisements in the four major metropolitan daily newspapers calling for reinstitution of the death penalty.

The advertisements headlined "Bring back the death penalty. Bring back our police." were to run tomorrow in the New York Times, New York Daily News, the New York Post and Newsday and cost up to \$85,000, a Trump spokesman said.

Trump said his decision to take out the ads was triggered by the rape-beating of a woman jogging in Central Park April 19 by a gang of youths.

"The criminal is being protected and the victim is getting zero protection," said an obviously agitated Trump in a telephone interview.

"How does she have civil liberties lying in hospital, close to death and these criminals are already chanting 'police brutality'?" he asked. "It's absolutely disgraceful, disgraceful."

"It's really becoming a society where the criminal has protection and the victim has no protection whatsoever," Trump said.

He said the message in his advertisement "is going beyond the death penalty — this is giving back the policeman their power."

Trump said police are afraid of losing everything in dealing with criminals, including their pension.

"All the legal weight has shifted to the criminal," Trump said. "The victim has no legal right the way society is right now."

The ad says in part: "At what point did we cross the line from the fine and noble pursuit of genuine civil liberties to the reckless and dangerously permissive atmosphere which allows criminals of every age to beat and rape a helpless woman then laugh at her family's anguish? And why do they laugh?"

"They laugh because they know that soon, very soon, they will be returned to the streets to rape and maim and kill once again — yet face no great personal risk to themselves," the ad reads.

"How can our great society tolerate the continued brutalisation of its citizens by crazed misfits? Criminals must be told that their civil liberties end when an attack on our safety begins."

Wedding and jail

TUCSON, Arizona, April 30, (AP): The groom left in handcuffs and the bride left in tears after a judge presided over their wedding and then sentenced the man to 13 years in prison on a cocaine conviction.

Alex J. Pedrin's eight-year-old daughter and four-year-old son from a previous marriage sat impassively next to their grandmother as their handcuffed father was led away after being sentenced Wednesday by Judge Nanette Warner.

However, Pedrin's new wife, 28-year-old Belinda Hoefert, who is expecting his child in September, began crying softly when the sentence was announced and left the courtroom in tears.

Under state law, Pedrin, 31, must serve the full term because a plea bargain with prosecutors required him to admit to a previous conviction for burglary.

Pedrin's first wife was stabbed to death in February 1987. A friend of the couple was convicted of murder and sentenced to death for the killing.

1,002-year term

ST. LOUIS, April 30, (UPI): A St. Louis man known as the "North Side Rapist" has been sentenced to 1,002 years in prison.

The man, Earl Thomas, 38, was sentenced Friday by St. Louis circuit judge Jack Koehr. Thomas will have to serve at least 80 per cent of the sentence — or 800 years — before becoming eligible for parole.

Thomas was convicted in March of 15 charges in connection with sexual attacks on five women between April and June 1987. The victims were attacked in separate incidents while waiting at or walking to bus stops in early morning hours.

Thomas showed no emotion as he was sentenced on the charges of forcible rape, kidnapping, robbery and attempted robbery.

Down and out

HONOLULU, April 30, (AP): Ralph Adams, a World War II submariner who helped rescue a downed flyer destined to become president of the United States, has died at age 76.

Adams died at his home of cancer on April 21.

He was part of a rescue party sent from the USS Finback on Sept. 4, 1944, to pick up then Lt. J.G. George Bush and four other downed Navy airmen in a rubber raft bobbing about 70 miles off Osaka, Japan.

Bush who had been piloting a single-engine bomber that was shot down by the Japanese, and one of his crewmen were in the raft along with three other flyers from another downed plane.

Summit on children

UNITED NATIONS, April 30, (Reuters): Leaders from 43 countries favour a summit meeting to discuss the "silent emergency" facing millions of needy children worldwide, the United Nations said yesterday.

A report on a three-day session of the executive board of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also supported the idea.

Hundreds of millions of children — in both poor and industrialised countries — are malnourished, homeless, illiterate and prone to easily avoidable diseases, according to UNICEF.

Varig fined \$35.2m

MIAMI, April 30, (UPI): Customs agents seized a Varig jet and fined the Brazilian national airline \$35.2 million after finding 2,200 pounds of cocaine aboard a flight from Uruguay, a Customs spokesman said.

Agents also arrested two men who collected the shipment when it arrived at Miami International Airport Friday, said Customs spokesman Cliff Stallings.

The cocaine was found during a routine cargo inspection after Varig flight 810 from Uruguay landed in Miami. The cocaine was stuffed into wooden crates inside 40 cardboard cartons, Stallings said.

The boxes immediately aroused suspicion.

"There were no marks or numbers on the cargo, no airway bills and no importer shipping information. The freight was not manifested," Stallings said.

Killing for honour

NEWPORT, Washington, April 30, (UPI): William Housam, who police said was desperate to restore honour to his family name, has admitted killing the man he believed raped his wife and agreed to help support the dead man's family.

Housam pleaded guilty Thursday to manslaughter and was sentenced to a year in a work-release programme and ordered to pay 10 years of child support for the dead man's two children.

The unusual sentence was recommended to Pend Oreille county superior court judge Larry Kristianson by prosecutor Tom Metzger.

The case has more to do with family honour and tradition than law and order, said Metzger, adding it showed the strength of Spokane's Korean community.

Housam said his wife, Kyung Hui Housam, was beaten and raped by an acquaintance, Kwang Soo Kim, during a 1987 party in Spokane.

Prosecutors said they did not have enough evidence to charge Kim, who said there was no rape and that the woman was a willing sexual participant.

Abortion arrests

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): More than 1,000 anti-abortion protesters were arrested Saturday at clinics around the country as they tried to focus attention on a key case now before the US supreme court.

Police reported arrests in at least 16 of the 50 US states.

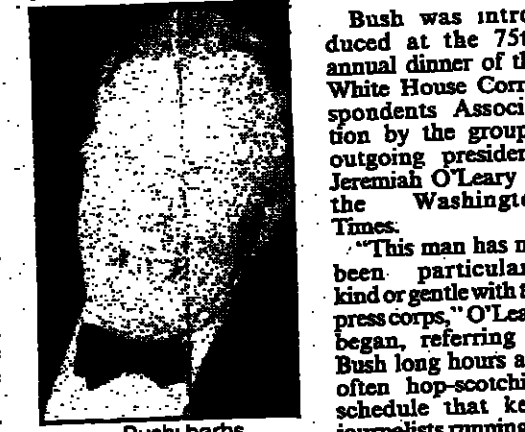
Anti-abortion demonstrations were planned in 65 cities from Alaska to Mississippi, in the deep south, said Operation Rescue spokesman Bob Nolte, whose group co-ordinated the protests.

Humorous Bush

WASHINGTON, April 30, (UPI): President Bush, wrapping up his first 100 days in office, last night addressed some of his toughest critics — members of the White House press corps — with self-deprecating humour.

"At the first debate, they asked Dan Quayle, 'what would the first thing you do as President?' Bush recalled. 'Cheer up Dan, they are still asking me,' he said, drawing sustained laughter from the black-tie crowd of more than 2,500.

"I'm going to give you a scoop tonight," said Bush. "My first nominee to the Supreme Court will be John Tower. What we need is a little justice."



Bush: barbs

"Some reporters think he is far too accessible. At any time, he might invite you to join him on a three-mile jog, pitching horse shoes or ask you to come see the puppies."

The night featured two professional comics, Garry Shandling and Jim Morris, who had the crowd roaring with Bush impersonations, ranging from his frequent refrain of "read my lips" to his call for volunteerism, the "thousand points of light."

But the President drew the biggest laughs with self-deprecating humour. At one point he told the association's incoming president, Johanna Newman of USA Today:

"Come by some time. I'll tell you how nifty, how swell, gosh, how much fun it is to be President."

Bush also told her that she, in following O'Leary into office, had a big advantage over him. "You can blame your failures on your predecessors," he said to another volley of laughs. "Leslie Stahl, White House correspondent for CBS, asked me the other day, 'Bush said, 'Don't you think are moving too cautiously?' I said, could I get back to you on that.'"

Bush said he doesn't mind public opinion polls that show his wife Barbara is more popular than him or even when UPI's Helen Thomas closes news conferences by saying, "Thank you, Barbara's husband."

The annual dinner, which features some of the biggest names in Washington journalism, is a traditional site for gentle barbs between the Fourth Estate and the President.

Pins found in Heinz baby food in US

3 UK stores remove products of two companies from shelves

LONDON, April 30, (Agencies): Three store chains ordered two manufacturers' baby food products pulled from their shelves yesterday because reports of an attempt to extort as much as a million pounds (\$1.6 million) from H.J. Heinz triggered more than 300 complaints of contamination.

And in the United States, straight pins were found in two jars of baby food produced by one of the two baby food manufacturers, the H.J. Heinz company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Scotland Yard had suggested on Friday that merchants throughout Britain remove any baby food from their shelves and sell it from behind counters to limit the possibility of packages being tainted in stores.

Executives at Asda, Boots and Tesco voluntarily ordered all baby food sold in glass jars under the labels of the US-owned Heinz and the British company Cow and Gate removed from their stores' shelves.

"The decision has been taken as a safety precaution in the interest of our customers pending the introduction of tamper-evident packaging which, according to manufacturers, will be available in-store from mid-May," an Asda statement said.

Heinz and Cow and Gate have said they will supply tamper-resistant baby food jars next month in response to more than 300 complaints of glass and pins found in their jars.

The first incidents of contamination came three weeks ago when broken glass, sharp metal and lye were found with extortion messages in two jars of Heinz baby food in England.

Five cases subsequently were reported before police announced on Wednesday that blackmail threats had been made against Heinz. Since then, authorities have received many reports from throughout Britain and Ireland of contaminated baby food made by Heinz and company Cow and Gate.

In the United States, Heinz officials said yesterday they believe three straight pins discovered in two jars of their baby food in Springfield, Illinois, may be the work of a copycat mimicking the tampering of Heinz products in Britain.

The pins were found on Friday by a Springfield, Illinois, babysitter in jars of strained applesauce and strained green beans as she prepared to feed a 6-month-old boy, police said.

Heinz products were pulled from the shelves of the three

Shop'n Save stores in Springfield, said Bob Marshall, a spokesman for the St. Louis-based grocery store chain, but Carroll said Heinz asked stores in the United States not to pull its products from their shelves.

"Heinz stated that there is no relation whatever between Heinz baby food products made in the United States and those produced in England," Carroll said.

Most of the reports of more taintings this week have come from "hoaxers and mischief-makers or false alarms," a Scotland Yard spokeswoman said.

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Local merchants voice concern over May sales conflict

AMID rumours that a conflict between local merchants and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry over prices will mean no May sales on household appliances and electronic goods, a local daily organised a seminar during which a number of the local merchants were able to voice their views on the subject.

One agent, Abdullah Al Yaqout, claimed that although the Chamber says merchants are selling below the approved prices, he felt that this assessment was based on inspection of only a few invoices, compared to "millions" of correct invoices

which were not taken into consideration. The Chamber now insists on applying the prices listed on the seized invoices during the sales, Yaqout said, adding that this would mean a slump in commercial activity within the country and give citizens the impression no reductions are being given.

Yusuf Sarhan, another merchant, said the Chamber of Commerce was unjustified in its present dealings with merchants. He said that if, as the Chamber says, it is under pressure from local journalists, then its public relations department should

clarify the situation to them.

The Kuwait market is closed in comparison with the UAE or Saudi Arabia, Sarhan said, as these countries are selling to Iran, Pakistan and India. He said the Chamber is contradictory in its policy of protecting local business.

The Chamber does not trust local agents, said Adel Al Yusufi, because it is under the impression they are illegally exploiting the sale season. While he admitted that this may have been the case in the past, he said it is not so now. He accused officials of wanting to control the market while

sitting in their offices, which he said cannot be done.

Yusuf Al Issa agreed that Dubai and Saudi Arabia had surpassed Kuwait as commercial centres in the region, which he regretted deeply. He said the Manakh crisis, security problems and the oil crisis had all contributed to the decline in demand for goods from Kuwait. If merchants were to raise prices by 30 to 40 per cent as the Chamber wants them to, he said, the slump would become even worse, especially in view of the lack of protection provided to local merchants.

He added that sales in Dubai and Saudi Arabia are always on a cash basis which means the cycle of monetary turnover is faster in those countries. In Kuwait, he said, most sales are by installment. Also, in Saudi Arabia local agents and distributors must be Saudi citizens, he said.

Issa said the Chamber of Commerce claim that local merchants make exorbitant profits was baseless, and that such a claim could apply to real estate and the stock market, he said, while laws governing other commercial activities have never been reviewed or developed.

Premier to visit Jordan

Cabinet holds weekly session

KUWAIT, April 30, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah will visit Jordan tomorrow, it was announced today.

Planning Minister Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi told reporters, following the cabinet's weekly session, that Sheikh Saad's visit springs from the distinct fraternal ties between Kuwait and Jordan and embodies the deep-rooted historic links between the two brotherly peoples.

The spokesman said at the onset, the cabinet reviewed a message received by HH the Amir from Democratic Yemen President Haider Abu Bakr Alatas dealing with bilateral ties.

Dr Al Awadi said the Kuwaiti government has appealed for calm between Mauritania and Senegal to contain the recent ethnic violence that has claimed more than 100 lives.

"The Council of Ministers appealed to the leaderships of the two neighbouring Muslim nations to initiate action towards con-

taining the regrettable incidents, in fulfilment of the best interests of the Senegalese and Mauritanian peoples and the Islamic objectives," Dr Al Awadi went on.

While reviewing the situation in Lebanon, based on a briefing from Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, chairman of the Arab League good offices committee on Lebanon, the cabinet appealed to all Lebanese parties to observe and consolidate the ceasefire called by the committee.

Kuwait leads in agriculture

BAHRAIN: Kuwait is investing more on research, promotion and development of its agricultural industry than any other country in the region, according to the latest edition of a top Bahrain-based Arab agricultural journal.

According to Dr P.K. Pillai, managing editor of Arab Agriculture 1989 Yearbook, which has just been released, the government of Kuwait is committed to boost agri-business in the country with extensive research conducted in protective agriculture use of solar power in agricultural production and use the conservation of irrigation water in agriculture.

These measures, he added, should considerably develop agricultural growth in the country, therefore yielding good results.

Kuwait has come a long way in its agricultural development since the government started to give priority to this sector with heavy investment schemes in the mid-seventies.

The journal states that Kuwait's agricultural output increased about approximately 50 per cent between 1980-88 and the country's investment in this sector also doubled during the period 1981-88.

The fishing sector also has made modest growth in the eighties. Total fish production increased from 3,400 tons in 1981 to 8,000 in 1988, said Dr Pillai in an interview with the Arab Times. He added that with the cessation of the Gulf war, prospects for further growth in the country's fisheries look bright.

Maid sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a maid to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour to be followed by deportation on completion of sentence.

The maid was convicted of inserting a pen into a sensitive part of the body of a six month infant girl.

The court was told that the child had to undergo an urgent surgical operation on her sex organs to save the infant's life.

In another incident, the same court sentenced an accused identified as Mansour H to 15 years in prison and his accomplice identified as Karim D to 10 years imprisonment for kidnapping and raping a girl. The sentences are to be served with hard labour to be followed by deportation.



Kuwaiti wheat

The first wheat produce from Kuwaiti farms. Wheat has been widely cultivated in Kuwait during this season, with encouragement from HH the Amir. Farmers were provided with every assistance and the experiment proved successful.

KAC introducing new facilities

KUWAIT Airways Corporation (KAC) is introducing several new facilities to enhance customer services to all passengers who fly the airline, according to a senior official.

KAC has introduced a new system whereby passengers who could not find seats on KAC aircraft despite confirmed reservations will be relocated on other carriers at the expense of KAC, according to Ghazi Abdullah Al Mishaan, deputy director general for Commercial Affairs at KAC.

These new arrangements will also incorporate a 10 per cent refund of the total air ticket price for those passen-

gers whose routes have been extended through such relocation of reservations if this resulted in a delay of four hours or more. However, this is only applicable to GCC citizens.

Another new system to operate a missing luggage retrieval system by the use of computers has been incorporated by KAC. This system is the latest of its kind in the world and has been specially introduced by KAC to meet the work pressure usually associated with the summer season.

The system can trace the lost or misrouted luggage back to different airports.

The system includes arrangement for direct recompense for lost luggage, Mishaan said.

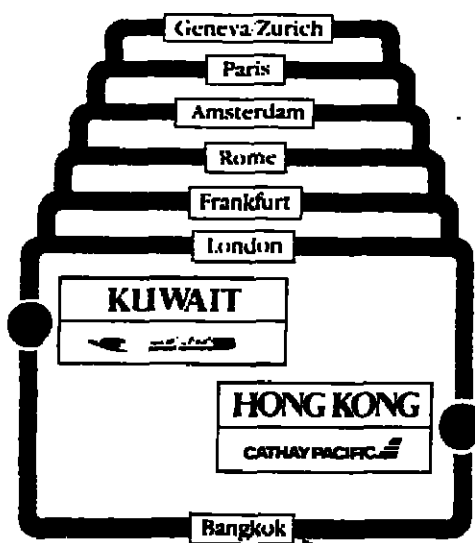
In a further move to provide extra flights, KAC designated a total of 24 additional flights to transport passengers seeking to perform Omra in the holy lands, Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the last "most blessed ten days of Ramadan."

Speaking to a local daily, Mishaan said that KAC had also operated 26 more additional flights on routes to Cairo, Damascus, Dubai and Bahrain on the occasion of the Eid Al Fitr. KAC's total additional flights this year is 474, the official concluded.

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Amiri audience

KUWAIT, April 30, (KUNA): HH the Amir today received the Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister and head of the Arab League six-man committee Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, on his return to the country.

The Amir also sent a cable of congratulations to the King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen of the Netherlands Beatrix on the occasion of their country's national day.

Kuwait delegation

PARIS, April 30, (KUNA): Nine Kuwaitis travelled to the Olympic city of Albertville to join others from 27 countries next July at an athletic camp set up by the organizing committee of the 1992 Winter Olympic Games, a source said here today.

Eid on May 6

DR SALEH AL UJAIRI, Kuwait's well-known astronomer announced that the first day of Eid will fall on Saturday, May 6.

The astronomer, whose predictions on the lunar months and other Islamic events have proved to be very accurate, said that the crescent of the new lunar month will be born on Friday, May 5 at 2:46 pm in Kuwait. The new crescent will set (disappear) 12 minutes after sunset and because of weather conditions, it will be difficult to sight.

Traffic accidents

FOUR people died and 13 were injured in traffic accidents that occurred yesterday, according to the Interior Ministry's Public Relation Department.

There were 23 traffic accidents in the country. Three occurred in the Capital, three in Hawalli, 12 in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

The Jahra patrols recorded about 209 traffic violations during the period April 22 to 28 at Jahra Governorate areas.

Alleged blackmail

THE General Prosecution is investigating the case of two securitymen for alleged kidnapping, blackmailing and threatening a man, along with a woman who is also under investigation.

A local daily reported that the woman had issued a dud cheque for KD750 to the complainant.

The man threatened to report the incident to the General Prosecution. The woman allegedly sent two policemen who took the complainant to the police station and managed to retrieve the cheque by threatening to beat him up and deport him.

The man reported the incident to the General Prosecution which lead to the arrest of the two security men and the woman.

Final exams

MINISTRY of Education Undersecretary, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari has denied that the ministry intends to change the date of the secondary school final exams, saying that doing so would change the summer holiday of all teachers and school workers which would confuse them because they have already made plans and booked tickets.

Changing the date of these exams would also confuse travel agencies and airlines which face pressure during the summer, Khudari said.

He called on students to prepare well for the final exams in order to pass them successfully.

Parrot ban

KUWAIT, April 30, (KUNA): The director of the Animal Health Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Dr Sultan Ahmed Sultan, today affirmed that the decision to ban the import of any of the parrot family was taken because these birds are carriers of many contagious viruses.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

(Ontario, British Columbia and Quebec)

HAROLD PETER TURNER
Lawyer, Montreal, Canada,
Member of Bar of Quebec
Practice restricted to Canadian
Immigration Law

Mr. Turner is available by prior appointment
— only for consultation today at the Le
Meridien Kuwait Hotel.

For an appointment, please telephone
2455550, extension 1029.

Legal CLINIC

I WOULD like to thank you very much for starting this column. Your advice will be helpful to expatriates in Kuwait.

I entered Kuwait in 1983 on Visa No. 18 and when my contract ended in August 1985, I returned to my country. I re-entered Kuwait in September, 1985, on a Visa No. 28. My visa was renewed for two years in January this year.

Please tell me:
1. Am I considered as staying continuously from 1983?
2. Can I cancel my present visa and re-enter Kuwait on Visa No. 18 or will I have to complete my stay in the country until 1991 and re-enter on a new Visa No. 18?

H. Mohammed
Salahiyah

1. The total duration of your stay will be considered from September 1985, the date you entered the country on Visa No. 20, according to the new labour law.

2. Your stay would have been considered continuous if you had stayed on Visa No. 18 from 1983. By the law, the duration of your stay is calculated from the date of entry and stay on the same visa.

You want to know if you can cancel the present visa and re-enter Kuwait on Article 18. Yes, you can cancel your visa and enter on a new visa, provided your sponsor agrees to cancel the residence. Only a sponsor has the right to have the residence cancelled.

AFTER six years of continuous service in a private sector company, I would like to resign from June 1, 1989. My residence permit expires on June 13, 1989.

1. What is the end of service benefit before five years and after five years of service?
2. Who will bear the expense of air ticket?
3. If the employer disregards the law, what legal action can be taken?

Abdul Hadi

I HAVE read your case with much interest. You have asked three questions. Firstly, the end of service benefits are 15 days pay per year for the first five years; and one month's salary for each year after five years of service; and the maximum indemnity must not exceed 18 months salary.

Secondly, according to the new rules, the sponsor must pay your air ticket. However, an employer is not obliged to pay the ticket if he has fired an employee under Article 55 of the labour law; or if the employee refuses to work without a valid reason; or if the employee ends his contract and/or violates the law and contract terms.

Thirdly, you can file a case against your employer in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. The ministry will study your appeal, and if there is a valid case, they can force the employer to pay. Of course, option of legal action is always open and you can file a case against the employer.

CAN a wife, who is the executor of her late husband's "Will", collect her husband's dues from his company. Or is it necessary to obtain a succession deed?

Said L. Fakhrou

IN the case of a Muslim family, the inheritance dues are distributed equally among the family members paid according to Islamic sharia (law).

In case the employee is a non-Muslim, the Will, executed by the man during his life, and attested by the embassy and the Ministry of Justice, is held valid.

In case, a company doesn't want to pay the dues, a family can go to court to get the money.

IS Article 17 of the new Labour Law applicable to expatriates born in Kuwait and residing in the country for 25 years?

For example: a person on a dependent visa changes to the company's residence and later wishes to leave his job for better prospects; but he has not completed three years. What happens in this case?

It is not clear whether you want a clarification of Article 16 of the new Labour Law. Article 16 applies to all non-Kuwaitis irrespective of their nationalities. It also applies to those expatriates who were born in Kuwait and lived in the country for 25 years.

However, you can transfer your residence, provided the previous sponsor gives you the necessary documents and the ministry accepts the application.

A FRIEND of mine was hired in his country of origin as a watchman/guard and works in one of the public gardens. He is asked by his employer to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please advise my friend if he is entitled to a day-off and overtime pay. How many hours a day and how many days a week should a guard or watchman work?

Another friend, also hired in his country of origin, wants to know if he can avail of his day-off on Friday by refusing to work overtime? He is one of those who work in the maintenance of public gardens, soft landscaping?

They also want to know if they have to bear the cost of securing their hawaliya, residence permit, medical examination and Civil ID Card? Such costs are deducted from their wages. Who is responsible for such costs? The employer or employee?

A.L. Belmonte

IT is difficult to answer your question because though you have explained the problems, you have not indicated who hired your friends. Were they hired by the private or public sector? How many years of service do they have? Were they hired on a contract? If yes, what are the terms of contract. If you want us to guide them, please send us full details of their employment, including their residence visa No. 18 or 20.

I WAS in Kuwait from 1978 to 1987. After 15 months I returned to Kuwait on a new visa on Feb 10, 1989. After working for two months, my sponsor is ready to release me. Can my residence be changed?

Domingo Rodrigues

ARTICLE 17 of the rules of the new labour law stipulates that a person must stay continuously for 10 years in Kuwait. Because you left Kuwait in 1987 and returned in February this year, the law will not take into consideration the previous duration of stay because you broke off the chain of continuity. Even though your sponsor is ready to release you, your visa can't be changed unless three years elapse.

WE have been working on a government project in Kuwait. Some of us arrived in March, 1986, and some came in mid-1987. The residence of those who came in March 1986 was stamped in May/June 1986.

The project has been completed and we were terminated. The sponsor allowed us to find jobs on an another government project of similar nature and we submitted our documents for transfer of residence.

After some days, our new sponsor informed us that the ministry has rejected our application as we did not complete three years on that project. The last paragraph of Article 16 of the new Labour Law says: "Upon the expiry of the government contract the employer may transfer such labourers to another employer of a similar project."

Why was our residence application rejected by the ministry? Please clarify.

UNDER Article 16, employees of a government project, on completion of a contract, can transfer to another project of similar nature. I don't know what the terms of the ministry's refusal were, so it is difficult for me to comment on it.

However, I suggest your sponsor should seek a meeting with some top ministry official and discuss the matter with them.

I AM a special contract civilian employee of the Ministry of Defence. Our original contract stipulates: "The second party will be entitled to a remuneration of half month's basic salary for each complete year of service, provided he completes three years in service." The same clause has been repeated in the subsequent renewal of the contract. (Normally, our contract is for three years). We are completing 12 years of service.

Are we entitled to enhanced rate of gratuity under the existing labour law?

Mustafa Rahman, Abdul Aziz

GRATUITY will be paid to you according to the terms specified in your special contract, which is not covered by the labour law. To determine gratuity, the terms of the civil contract signed by you are taken into consideration and decided accordingly.

Your contract is held valid at all times during your service, unless otherwise specified, and you'll get 15 days salary, as mentioned in the contract. If you want a better assessment of your case, please send a copy of your contract.

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Moroccan minister meets Amir

KUWAIT, April 30, (KUNA): HH the Amir received today the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation Dr Abdul Latif Al Filali, who delivered to His Highness a message from Moroccan monarch King Hassan II.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Services Affairs Essa Mohammed Al Mazidi.

Filali arrived in Kuwait late yesterday evening to discuss an emergency Arab summit called by King Hassan.

KUNA earlier quoted Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah as saying Kuwait would attend the summit, to be held on either May 20 or June 10, but was awaiting more details.

Yesterday, Filali conferred in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad at the end of a 24-hour visit and delivered to him a message from King Hassan on the summit and other regional issues.

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that President Hosni Mubarak would attend the proposed summit to take place next month in Rabat, Morocco.

If true, the report would mean an end to a ten-year suspension of Egypt from the Arab League in retaliation for Cairo's peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The report, in today's edition of the weekly October magazine, did not mention a source for its information, but the publication is known for its accuracy.

Due to a long weekend of national and Christian religious holiday, government officials were not available for comments.

Under the headline "Intensified Egyptian-Arab activities in the coming weeks," October gave a list of Mubarak's schedules for the month of May, including a trip to Saudi Arabia, visits by the heads of state of Jordan, Iraq and North Yemen and the Amir of Bahrain. They are all previously confirmed meetings.

"President Hosni Mubarak will attend an extraordinary Arab summit meeting to be held in Rabat and to focus on the Lebanon issue," October said. Egypt's membership in the League was suspended in 1979 in retaliation for its peace treaty with Israel, and all but three Arab countries broke off diplomatic relations with Cairo.

Since Mubarak took office in 1981, Egypt's ties with Arab states have improved. A League summit in 1987 allowed members to resume ties with Egypt individually, but stopped short of reinstating it in the 22-seat organisation.

All but Syria, Lebanon and Libya have renewed links with Egypt.

The heads of state of Jordan, North Yemen and Iraq, who formed an economic grouping with Egypt last February, have said they will not attend any Arab summit without Cairo. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said during a Cairo visit last month that Egypt must attend the next Arab summit.

Municipality ensures safety of mutton

KUWAIT Municipality ensures the safety of slaughtered mutton and its fitness for human consumption, according to a local daily.

Hilal Ibrahim Al Houli, deputy director, for technical affairs of the slaughter house department stated that the old slaughterhouse previously located on Gulf Street did not meet all consumers mutton requirements. The central slaughterhouse was established in the early 60s and was able to provide five hundred head daily while during the 70s slaughtering increased to almost double the previous amount.

Houli said that a total of 128,471 sheep have been slaughtered at Kuwait slaughterhouses during Ramadan. Slaughtered sheep include Australian and Arabian breeds of sheep, in addition to goats, camels and calves. He added that the level of slaughtering will slightly decrease of the first day of Eid, but will return to the ordinary level of 2,000 to 2,500 head of livestock daily.

There are government-owned slaughterhouses in Kuwait, at the areas of Wafra, Fahad Jleeb Al Shuyoukh, Jahra, the Capital and Failand.

The Municipality deploys its supervision and inspection teams constantly at the slaughterhouses, Houli said adding that the Municipality is not responsible for the safety of livestock slaughtered independently at parties and private houses.

He urged consumers to obtain their sheep from slaughterhouses in order to ensure the safety of the mutton for human consumption.

Fundamentalists seek base in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, April 30, (AP): Anti-Western Muslim fundamentalists from several Arab and North African states are fighting alongside Afghan rebels as they try to find a niche in Afghanistan, rebel and Western sources say.

The fundamentalists, believe in literal interpretation of the Holy Quran. Many of those fighting alongside Afghan rebels are particularly venomous toward the United States, Western and Afghan sources say.

One rebel leader said the fundamentalists are fighting mainly alongside the more radical anti-communist rebel groups, who dominate a US-supported mujahideen provisional government, because they are ideologically

similar.

The self-proclaimed regime hopes to establish an Islamic republic of Afghanistan after an eventual defeat of the Soviet-backed Marxist government in Kabul, which seized power in a 1978 coup. The final Soviet troops pulled out in February.

Moderate rebels, who favour a more liberal Muslim state, warn that the United States could be one of the biggest losers if the fundamentalists gain a foothold inside Afghanistan.

No one knows for sure how many fundamentalists have come to fight, although they number in at least the hundreds. Some arrive with aid money and services in the form of medical assistance.

The rebel government's Prime Minister, Rasul Sayyaf, is believed to have the largest group of fundamentalist fighting alongside his men. Sayyaf is head of Itehad-i-Islami, considered the smallest of the four more fundamentalist groups in the seven-party rebel alliance. He has drawn his main support from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, so the fundamentalists tend to favour him.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the rebels' vociferously anti-American foreign minister, also reportedly has fundamentalists fighting alongside his rebels.

Rebel sources confirmed that Western volunteer aid organisations and foreign journalists travelling clandestinely inside

Afghanistan to cover the war have complained to the rebel government about the fundamentalists' fierce hatred of Westerners.

Several Western journalists returning from the battlefield outside Jalalabad reported encounters with Arabs from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Sudan.

Western and Afghan sources said they believed the fundamentalists mainly are private volunteers, operating independently of their respective governments.

"When they come, they are very difficult to stop," said Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, a moderate who is president of the rebel government.

Mojaddidi, leader of the

Afghan National Liberation Front, said only Afghan nationals should be allowed on the battlefield.

"For us it is much better if only Afghans fight. It is our own struggle," he said.

One rebel who belongs to another of the moderate guerrilla groups headquartered in Pakistan claimed the Arab nationals are looking for a base to set up their brand of Islam.

The source said Washington's support for Pakistan, which has been the conduit of American military aid to the rebels, has allowed the fundamentalists to flourish. As evidence, he said the Arab nationals have to travel through Pakistan to Afghanistan.

Settler shoots girl, 10, in head

Tension high in Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 30, (Reuters): Palestinians said Jewish settlers shot a 10-year-old girl bystander in the head today when they opened fire after their cars were stoned in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Doctors at Alia Hospital said Arijia Natshe was seriously ill. Relatives who brought her to the hospital said she was not involved in stone-throwing.

Neither the Army nor Jewish settlers could confirm the reports. Tension between Jews and Arabs in the volatile city has been high since police yesterday arrested a Jew who confessed to shooting at Palestinians after his car was stoned in Hebron.

A 14-year-old boy standing 300 metres from where Haim Ben Lulu opened fire was shot and later died.

Ben Lulu, 52, claimed he only fired after his car was stoned on Friday and surrounded by 40 Palestinians youths who tried to turn it over, Jewish settlers said.

Clashes broke out elsewhere in Hebron today between soldiers, police and Palestinians, Arab and Jewish residents reported.

Police who took Ben Lulu to re-examine the shooting had to turn back when youths hurled stones at them.

About 30 Jewish settlers held a vigil outside the military headquarters where Ben Lulu was held in protest at his arrest.

Shelli Karzen said Ben Lulu would have been killed had he not opened fire. "If (the Army) is not going to protect us we are going to protect ourselves."

Elsewhere in the occupied West Bank, soldiers used tear gas against Palestinian demonstrators, witnesses said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, the Army lifted curfews imposed for several days on the refugee camps and various districts of Gaza City. Protests broke out in Rafah border town and troops shot and wounded a Palestinian youth, hospital staff reported.

Israel has been indirectly negotiating with the PLO to exchange Palestinian prisoners for the body of an Israeli soldier, an Israeli Arab academic said today.

Ahmed Tibi, who heads the Arab academic circle in Arab East Jerusalem, said the United States and other third parties had been involved in reaching the settlement.

"I can say that something positive is happening in the direction of finishing this matter," Tibi told Reuters. "The issue of the soldier will be solved and Israel agreed to do something in return."

The Israeli-appointed mayor of the occupied West Bank of El-Bireh said yesterday he would resign after Palestinian assailants set fire to his home.

Mayor Hassan Al Tawil, who was stabbed and seriously wounded in June 1988 after he refused calls to resign by the underground leaders of a Palestinian uprising, told Reuters.

"I am exhausted. I cannot perform my duties well. I cannot please the world. I wrote my resignation and will hand it in tomorrow. I am not going to go back on this. I am determined."

An explosion occurred today near the diamond exchange centre at Ramat Gan outside Tel Aviv, Israel Radio said.

There were no immediate reports of injuries but witnesses reported seeing blood, the radio said.

A high-ranking official of Yasser Arafat's faction of the PLO escaped assassination yesterday when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at his house, police said. Zeid Wehbi, a senior official in Arafat's mainstream Fatah group, was not in the house when the mid-afternoon attack occurred in Sidon, police said.

Two passers-by were wounded by bomb shrapnel, police said.

Arafat will unveil new peace proposals in Paris this week, including details of a plan for holding elections in the occupied territories, according to the British newspaper the Sunday Times.

Mayor freed

ANKARA, April 30, (Reuters): An Islamic fundamentalist mayor held in jail for 13 days for alleged anti-secular statements was released in Turkey yesterday, Anatolian news agency said. Ibrahim Celik's lawyer said Celik had no complaints about his detention and that he would resume his duties immediately as mayor of the southeastern city of Sanliurfa.

China discusses political reform

Students to continue boycott

BEIJING, April 30, (AP): Senior government officials held an unprecedented meeting yesterday with selected student leaders to discuss demands for a free press and political reform that have sparked two weeks of widespread protest.

But leaders of an independent student association rejected the meeting as a "plot to co-opt our movement" because the government remained unwilling to recognize the group's legality.

They said 41 universities in Beijing would continue their week-old class boycott until the government acknowledged that the newly-formed union represented the students.

Despite the students' complaints, the meeting was a concession by the government in a country of little contact between the leaders and the public.

The central radio and television stations carried a lengthy broadcast of the meeting, providing some Chinese with a rare platform to criticize the government.

"Does Premier Li Peng really fear the people," asked one of the 45 students present. "If not, why won't he talk with us?"

Another said: "Most people I know don't believe the Chinese press. It should be allowed to tell the truth and not used by the party."

The 3 1/2-hour meeting with state council spokesman Yuan Mu, state Education Minister He Dongchang and high-ranking officials from the Beijing city government, marked the first time government officials have met with student activists since protests began two weeks ago.

Government officials, speak-

ing on behalf of Premier Li, called on the students to return to class. They made no promises to change state policy but acknowledged student complaints and implied that further meetings were possible.

The appearance of Yuan, believed to be part of the inner circle of the nation's top decision-makers, was an indication of how seriously the government regards the recent student unrest.

The meeting was part of a series of concessions and drawbacks the government has experienced since the protests began.

On April 22, the government was unable to enforce an order closing Tiananmen Square because 150,000 students and their supporters occupied it to commemorate the death of ousted Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang. Hu's death on April 15 sparked the first protests.

On Thursday, tens of thousands of students marched through lines of police, defying threats of a government crackdown, in what was believed to be the biggest demonstration in communist China's 40-year history.

Both Yuan and He cracked jokes and laughed throughout the meeting as they sought to adopt a conciliatory attitude toward the student movement.

Activists at the university announced that elections earlier scheduled for Sunday had been cancelled, saying the time was not ripe. Several students said rifts among the members of an unelected "preparatory committee" lay behind the decision.



The Sphinx is shedding its stone skin like dandruff. (Reuters wirephoto)

Archaeologists try to preserve

Sphinx gives nightmares

GIZA, Egypt, April 30, (Reuters): Legend has it that the Sphinx once appeared to a Pharaonic prince in a dream, asking for help against encroaching desert sands.

Now the 4,600-year-old sculpture of a lion with a human head, crouching below the massive Giza pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo, is giving restoration experts nightmares.

Time has shaved off the fabulous monster's beard and lopped off its earlobes, nose and bits of its chin.

Each day, flakes of limestone float away.

According to ancient Greek myth the Sphinx posed a riddle no man but Oedipus could answer. His modern counterparts — some of the world's archaeologists — are once more wrestling with the riddle of how to preserve it, as each falling stone provokes controversy.

"It's not just an old building you're going to refurbish and renovate," said archaeological

chemist Omar Arini. "Basically, you're dealing with a lousy rock that's been a lousy rock forever."

The sculpture, whose head is possibly that of the Pharaoh Chephren, was hewn from rock of poor quality. Some scientists believe repairs began soon after the monument was completed.

Much of the damage to the Sphinx's mutilated face happened in ancient times. Its nose, according to one account, was hacked off in the ninth century by a Muslim zealot trying to discourage idol worship.

Pollution has taken its toll and Egyptian authorities plan to ban cars from the Giza plateau later this year.

After a few damaging restoration attempts in modern times, archaeologists have come full circle. They now believe the methods used by Pharaonic and Roman workmen were the best.

Iran paper warns of cut in ties with Bonn

NICOSIA, April 30, (Reuters): An Iranian newspaper said today that Tehran should threaten to cut economic ties with West Germany to reduce Bonn's antagonism towards the Islamic republic.

"Bonn will try to set free its foreign policy from the pressures dictated by the United States when it becomes certain that the continuation of its present policy will end up (with) a break in economic ties with Iran," said the daily Abrar.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi said last week that West German embassies in Europe had helped the US Central Intelligence Agency to run a spy network in Iran. Bonn denied any involvement.

Abrar said in its editorial, reported by the Iranian news agency IRNA, that "informed sources believed the acceleration of Bonn's hostility towards Iran was due to the disclosure of its collaboration with the United States in the recently-discovered conspiracy against the Islamic republic."

"It seems that the present policy is based on Tehran-Bonn separation," IRNA, quoted the paper as saying.

"West Germany is responsible for the consequences of such a policy. London faced a dead end in its ties with Iran when it chose the same attitude."

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Moroccans' tricky task

CASABLANCA, April 30, (Reuters): Moroccan workmen building the Grand Hassan II mosque in Casablanca have begun the tricky task of making the world's tallest minaret 28 metres (92 feet) higher.

The minaret stands on top of the unfinished mosque, dominating the skyline in Morocco's biggest and busiest city and visible from 50 km (30 miles) away.

After King Hassan II visited the site in December, it was decided to raise the minaret from 172 metres (564 feet) to 200 metres (656 feet).

"His majesty felt it was not quite high enough. That it was not in proportion with the rest of the mosque. He suggested a few other improvements, too," said a city hall representative.

On top of the minaret a laser beam will pierce the night sky, pointing in the direction of Makkah.

The mosque will be the largest in the world outside Islam's holy places in Makkah and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Designed by French architect Michel Pinseau, a personal friend of the King, the mosque will be 200 metres (660 feet) long, 100 metres (330 feet) wide, and 60 metres (200) high.

It will accommodate 100,000 worshippers, 20,000 inside and 80,000 in a huge courtyard outside. There will be a separate prayer hall for women, a religious school, a museum and a library.

The mosque faces directly toward the sea and dykes have been built to hold back the sea while the building is completed. They will then be removed and the building will appear to float on water.

Breakers have been built to ensure waves do not rock the building.

The mosque is the most ambitious non-military construction project ever undertaken in the country. It is also one of the most expensive.

Estimates of its cost range as high as \$360 million — one tenth of the government's entire budget for 1989 and ten times capital expenditure in the health sector this year.

Gifts from Saudi Arabia, other Gulf nations and from private individuals are also helping to pay. Former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua donated 50,000 French francs (\$3,200) during a recent holiday in Morocco.

Casablanca already has about 300 mosques, but city officials say the Hassan II mosque will become the focal point of the country's commercial capital.

Saudis contain oil slick, India confirms tanker refloated

MANAMA, April 30, (AP): An Indian supertanker that ran aground in the Red Sea was refloated yesterday as Saudi Arabian authorities have managed to contain the problem of oil slick by installing plastic barriers, Saudi sources and the Indian owners reported.

Sources in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, said the spill was smaller than initially anticipated and pollution experts were fragmenting the 50-mile (80 km) long oil slick.

S.K. Sood, joint managing director of the Shipping Corporation of India, confirmed in Bombay that the 276,744-ton Kanchenjunga

had been refloated and said it was anchored at the Saudi port of Jeddah.

He said the bottom of three tanks punctured when the supertanker ran aground on Wednesday, spilling 3,000 cubic metres (tons) of the cargo of 268,000 tons.

The cause of the accident has not been publicly explained.

The statement from the government-run company said official R. Bedi reached Jeddah on Friday to "make arrangements to refloat the vessel," stuck on a reef six miles (10 kilometres) off Jeddah.

The vessel had 71 people on board, including families of two of the officers. Everyone on board was safe and there were no casualties, the statement said.

Two tugs of Jeddah Port Authority "helped contain the spill" and representatives of the P and I club and the salvage association were also present at the site, said the statement released in Bombay.

The amount spilled was less than reported earlier. Lloyds shipping intelligence unit in London had reported about 5,000 tons of oil, or 1.5 million gallons, had leaked into the sea.

Soldiers' relatives beaten in Georgia

MOSCOW, April 30, (AP): Residents in Soviet Georgia have beaten soldiers' relatives and stoned their homes in what an Army general yesterday called misplaced anger about the bloody repression of pro-independence rallies this month.

At least 20 people died in clashes earlier this month in Tbilisi, capital of the southern Soviet republic. Georgians say the troops, comprising Red Army soldiers and Interior Ministry security forces, attacked a peaceful demonstration with shovels, clubs and harmful gases.

Gen. I.N. Rodionov, commander of the Caucasus military district, said Tbilisi residents are blaming Army soldiers for the clash, but he strongly implied that the Interior Ministry forces were to blame for the violence.

Rodionov spoke on the evening national news programme Vremya, which reported that wives and children of Red Army soldiers have been beaten and their apartments stoned in retaliation for the crackdown. There were no other details about the beatings.

He said Interior Ministry

troops should have handled the demonstration without the aid of Red Army soldiers and suggested that ministry troops wear special uniforms so they can be distinguished from the Red Army.

He asserted that ministry troops, not Army soldiers, had used the harmful gas that some dissidents claimed was nerve gas.

The Georgian health minister said last week that troops used an unidentified chemical that caused at least two of the deaths and several serious injuries.

Rodionov, like other Soviet officials, maintained the substance used against demonstrators was tear gas. He also said he personally opposed the use of troops to crush the demonstrations.

Leaders in Moscow have blamed Georgian authorities for sending in troops and had ousted the republic's party chief days after the April 9 riot.

Meanwhile, in nearby Armenia in the Caucasus region, plans for May Day celebrations were cancelled for fear they could turn into pro-independence demonstrations.

Gorbachev 'failing'

Proceed cautiously: Cheney

WASHINGTON, April 30, (Reuters): US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said in remarks broadcast yesterday he believed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is likely to fail in his reform efforts and be replaced by someone more hostile to the West.

"If I had to guess today, I would guess that he would ultimately fail," Cheney said in a television interview.

"That is to say that he will not be able to reform the Soviet economy to turn it into an efficient, modern society," Cheney said. "And when that happens, he's likely to be replaced by

somebody who will be far more hostile than he's been in terms of his attitude towards the West."

Cheney said that because of the possibility Gorbachev might be replaced, the United States and its NATO allies should proceed cautiously in lowering troop strength in Western Europe.

"We don't know whether that's a permanent change that's going to last or whether it's a temporary aberration," Cheney said of Gorbachev's reforms. "As long as there's a possibility it's an aberration, we have to be careful."

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IN the midst of great joy do not promise to give a man anything; in the midst of great anger do not answer a man's letter — Chinese proverb.

Leadership crisis

Old guard under fire

By Guy Dinnmore

CHINA's masses inflicted short-term humiliation on their old-guard leaders with a defiant protest last week but are unlikely to win significant policy changes soon, Western diplomats said.

Tens of thousands of students, joined by crowds of cheering workers on a day-long march, paralysed the Chinese capital and attracted more than one million onlookers, many voicing their support of student demands for democratic freedoms.

Not since the anarchic days of the cultural revolution in the 1960s had Peking seen such an outburst.

Fierce warnings issued by the communist authorities on radio, television and in official newspapers did more so to encourage the protesters than deter them.

"The leadership is humiliated. They are enclosed in their Zhongnanhai compound just like the old emperors, not knowing what is happening in their country," said one diplomat.

"But unlike in a democracy, they will try and survive by falling back on the old system and get deeper into trouble," she added.

Economic reforms, slowed to a virtual halt by an austerity programme begun last September, would crawl along and China would continue to seek foreign investment, diplomats said.

No changes in the government and Communist Party's top line-up were expected in the near future, analysts said.

"If leaders resigned who would take their place? There is no organised opposition. Today was a victory for the students. There was no violence. The next step is some kind of dialogue," a Chinese journalist commented.

In what students saw as a major concession, the government announced that it was ready for talks with striking students but through official university channels "in a suitable atmosphere."

China's most prominent dissident, professor Fang Lizhi, was not optimistic about major policy changes.

"It's very difficult to interpret. I don't think the students have a big chance of success. It will be quite difficult to get any answer from the government," he said.

A senior Western diplomat with experience on China in the turbulent 1960s said retrenchment and not abrupt change were the likely outcome of the student protests.

"The party is playing for time, as they are with economic problems — inflation — and corruption which they are doing little about. China is against sudden steps," he commented.

"Prominent intellectuals could be removed from their posts. This could go on for a long time," he added.

The government is going for a long-term policy of containment and the students are trying not to fall into the trap of hooliganism. "they will have to muddle along," he said.

Diplomats said they believed senior leader Deng Xiaoping's professed wish to retire was genuine but the student protests — erupting in many major cities — would delay the day.

Deng, 85 in August and the architect of China's economic reforms launched 10 years ago, would want to bow out on a high note, they said.

A meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in mid-May — the first Sino-Soviet summit since 1959 — could provide him with that opportunity.

But in the old guards, the last generation of the 1949 revolution that brought them to power, must cope with the likelihood of more protests on May 4.

Students say the 70th anniversary of the historic movement for democratic rights is spawning on their 12-day-old campaign.

"See you again on May 4," cheered crowds of onlookers as students marched in waves back to their campuses.

Diplomats pointed out that international bankers, and — for the first time since 1949 — Taiwan officials will assemble in Peking on that day for the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

Anti-government rioting in the provincial capitals of Xian and Changsha last Saturday could give the authorities the grounds they need to enforce their draconian-sounding warnings.

A Changsha resident said that special passes were needed to leave the southern city.

A diplomat concluded: "The government can give the students SOPs or impose a clampdown. Repression is more likely than accommodation."

PRESS REVIEW

Hidden hand in Mauritania riots

KUWAIT (KUNA): A local daily has accused foreign powers of being behind the recent ethnic conflicts and clashes that claimed hundreds of lives in Senegal and Mauritania.

Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper warned that ethnic disputes would lead to catastrophic results not only in the two countries but also in the whole African continent.

Foreign powers aim at certain rifts between the Arab and African nations and weakening Arab union councils, said the paper in its analysis of the dimensions of the Senegalese — Mauritanian communal dispute.

Big powers have long established history in raising artificial conflicts in Asia and Africa in favour of their colonialist interests, Al Rai Al Aam said, noting it is no surprise that such conflicts break out as the Arab League makes its utmost to solve Lebanon's crisis.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1517 — "Evil May Day" riots in London as apprentices attack foreign residents. 60 rioters later are hanged.
- 1522 — England declares war on France and Scotland.
- 1648 — Scots begin second civil war.
- 1700 — Saxon troops invade Livonia, marking start of Great Northern War.
- 1703 — Chushingura incident occurs in Japan when Kiva Yoshinaka is slain by supporter of late Lord of Aiko.
- 1707 — Union between England and Scotland is formed under name Great Britain.
- 1819 — Freedom of the press is introduced in France.
- 1896 — Nasir-ud-Din, Shah of Persia, is murdered.
- 1925 — Cyprus is declared a British crown colony.
- 1937 — US President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs US Neutrality Act.
- 1942 — Japanese forces take Mandalay, Burma, in World War II while British retreat along Chindwin valley to India.
- 1963 — Netherlands New Guinea, former Dutch territory, is transferred from United Nations custody and is named West Irian.
- 1974 — UN General Assembly rejects \$4 billion aid programme proposed by United States, and approves instead Third World programme that would establish special fund to aid poor countries.
- 1977 — May Day rally in Istanbul turns into a gun battle between leftists and Turkish police.
- 1986 — Millions of blacks stay away from jobs and schools in what is described as largest anti-apartheid protest in South Africa's history.
- 1987 — Pope John Paul II beatifies Jewish-born nun killed at Auschwitz Nazi death camp.
- 1988 — Police clash with demonstrators throughout Poland as thousands heed labour group Solidarity's call for "national day of protest."

A political 'tar-baby' too complex to solve

International hesitancy on solutions for Lebanon

By E.A. Wayne

CAN anyone save Lebanon? Who is willing to try? Weeks of brutal artillery barrages between the Christian-led government in East Beirut and Syria and its Lebanese allies have forced Lebanon onto foreign agendas in Washington and other key capitals.

But the fierce fighting has not overcome international hesitancy to get too involved in that tragic situation. Lebanon is widely perceived as a political 'tar-baby' that is just too complex and demanding to solve.

"We're all just scrambling to get a cease-fire," a well-placed US diplomat says. "No one is looking now for overall solutions to the civil war or for ways to end the Syrian occupation."

"People are pessimistic and fatalistic whenever you bring up Lebanon," adds a ranking Bush administration source. "They almost instinctively want to keep it at arms length."

US, French, and Arab diplomats say Christian Prime Minister Michael Aoun was apparently trying in part to overcome just that attitude when he launched his crusade to evict Syria from Lebanon. But his 15,000 troops are no match for Syria's 40,000 plus its Lebanese allies, they say. So he must have been trying to attract international attention.

"This is a Lebanese pattern — make a lot of noise and get outsiders to intervene," says a ranking French specialist on the region. "The problem is that nobody has come to help."

"The Soviets aren't going to confront Syria, their only regional ally," he says. "The US has no interest in getting too involved (Secretary of State James) Baker and (President George) Bush remember the (US) Marine barracks disaster. The Arab League is certainly not going to take on Syria for a Christian leader. And we aren't going to get burned either."

And in Lebanon, a US official adds: "No one seems to be listening to our urgings for restraint."

The irony, US specialists say, is that while the chances of success in any Lebanon peace effort are small, its chaos could shatter regional peace efforts and spill into the international arena. Lebanon remains a base for most of the dissident Palestinians opposing the Palestine Liberation Organization's moderate approach to peace with Israel and its renunciation of terrorism. It is also cradle to the radical, pro-Iranian Hizbullah. With the new radical turn in Iran, specialists are worried about a revival of Hizbullah terrorism. More recently, Iraq — a bitter rival of Syria — has begun to arm the rightist Christian Lebanese Forces militia. This raises the prospect of regionalizing the conflict.

Lebanon's domestic politics are equally messy. Its Christian, Muslim, and other ethnic and religious communities are divided over power sharing. Lebanon currently has two rival governments and no president. General Aoun was named acting prime minister by the outgoing president last year when Christian leaders refused to accept a Syrian-sponsored successor. A rival Muslim government headed by former acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss is supported by Syria.

There is little consensus in Washington or other concerned capitals on how to get a handle on Lebanon's problems, and specifically, how to deal with Syria's predominance in that country's affairs. Nor is there any evident desire here, or in the Arab world, to use the amount of leverage — military force or money — that might get the Syrians to budge.

"Most everyone agrees with Aoun that the Syrians have to leave," says one US Middle East specialist, "but not in the way he's going about it."

Other observers are more blunt. "Aoun went too far," says a senior Arab diplomat involved in the Arab League mediation effort. "You can't humiliate the regional superpower."

Some US officials still see Syria's presence as a relatively stabilizing force. Some say a final solution will have to await progress in the Arab-Israeli peace process which would also remove Israeli troops from the South. Others say the Syrian presence now only blocks the Lebanese



A Lebanese man inspects the damage to his neighbourhood during the recent fighting in East Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

from addressing their differences.

Syrian troops entered the fray in 1976 to help the Christians in Lebanon's civil strife. They have since imposed a degree of dominance on most of the country. Under that dominance, however, Lebanon has disintegrated into a set of warlords many of whom thrive on war and drug trafficking, well-informed diplomats say.

A ranking US official likens Syria's presence in Lebanon to an elephant in the living room — "if you want to get him out, you have to work with him." But he and others admit that the US tried it last year and failed.

Washington attempted to help reform Lebanon's constitution and find a presidential candidate for Lebanon, but eventually it ran smack into Syrian obstinacy on the presidential candidate. Now US efforts are focused on preventing further deterioration of the situation.

General Aoun has embarked on a very high-risk strategy that could end in his martyrdom, say US officials. Aoun is seen by many as a nationalist who can potentially help bridge the Muslim-Christian gap that has kept Lebanon at war for 14 years.

"There is no one we see to easily replace him, and if he goes the Christian enclave could fall into the hands of the Lebanese Forces (a right-of-centre Christian militia force). That would mean the end of any pretense of a national government in Lebanon," warns a well-placed

official. The immediate question is how far Syria will push to teach Aoun a lesson.

Some worry that Syria may be prepared to level parts of Beirut. Others say President Hafez Assad will eventually restrain his troops. Some US critics argue that even if the US is not going to commit the resources needed to get Syria out now, it should at least be more forceful.

"Every time the Syrians disagree with some event in Lebanon, they begin shelling and we and the rest of the world just cede to them," says a well-placed Washington specialist on the region.

"This just isn't consistent with US policy of supporting the restoration of Lebanon's central government and withdrawing all foreign forces."

Beyond the immediate crisis, say US and French sources, the key is to somehow get a dialogue started between Christians and Muslims free of Syrian interference.

Aoun is being urged to offer ideas on constitutional reform that could serve as a basis for talks. Several sources suggest that the talks should start in private channels and could evolve into a gathering outside of Lebanon. But the top priority right now, they say, has to be stopping the killing.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

West should respond to this historic development.

Communist system in a 'terminal crisis': Brzezinski

By Linda Feldmann

TO Zbigniew Brzezinski, all this talk about Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's chances of political survival is beside the point.

What really matters, the former national security adviser says, is that the communist system is in "terminal crisis" that will inevitably bring "unforeseeable but potentially dangerous" changes.

Dr Brzezinski's new book, "The Great Failure," chronicles what he sees as the birth and death of communism and posits scenarios for the "post-communist era."

In an interview, the Polish-born political scientist discussed how the West should respond to the risks and opportunities posed by this historic development.

"In my judgement," Brzezinski said, "what is needed is some form of East-West dialogue — which could then include American-Soviet dialogue."

The premise of the discussion would be a "progressive redefinition of the two alliances," NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Such changes would be greater for the latter, he said.

Currently, the two alliances are designed to maintain both an ideological and geopolitical status quo, he says. Under the new order, he foresees alliances that have "only an external geopolitical function, the maintenance of stability in Europe," but which are "composed of states which internally have maximum freedom of choice."

"That is the only solution that will

permit this process of the decomposition of the communist world to take place peacefully," Brzezinski asserts.

As the Bush administration reviews United States policy toward the Soviet Union, some experts have suggested a US-Soviet negotiation on the future of Central Europe.

This would be "extremely counter-productive," producing anxieties and resentment in both East and West Europe, says Brzezinski. Another approach favoured by some would be simply to let Eastern Europe fall out of the Soviet grip naturally, as seems to be happening.

Brzezinski rejects that idea as well, calling it "too unpredictable." The Warsaw Pact, he says, should be continued — though not as an "enforcer of ideological orthodoxy internally." Rather, "it should only be a preserver of the external status quo, which means existing states, existing borders."

"If Hungary wants to be a pluralistic democracy, if Poland wants to be primarily a Catholic democratic state, let them be. But that should not stand in the way of having a relationship of alliance with the Soviet Union. So in effect we have to move in two planes."

"We have to assist social and economic transformation of communism in Eastern Europe, but at the same time try to create this structure of security."

Further interview excerpts: QUESTION: Does the Soviet Union still aim to spread its influence around the world, despite its economic weak-

ness?

ANSWER: There's no doubt that the impulse for greatness, for a great many Russians, was enhanced by the alleged universality of the communist ideology. That, I think, has been stripped away. The question then remains, will their nationalism suffice? The Russians are a great nation. So I think the desire to be No. 1 will probably motivate quite a few great Russians. But I also suspect that right now, very many of them would be also very conscious of the fact that they have a ... long way to go — much longer than they thought.

A few years ago they thought they were riding the crest of history. I think now they know that they are risking sliding into the dustbin of history. That is an egregiously serious preoccupation. This is why Gorbachev can now say with unabashed apocalyptic pessimism: perestroika is our last chance. If it doesn't work, it is the death of socialism.

Q: Will internal difficulties make the Soviets more adventurous militarily? A: Basically, no. The reason I feel that way is twofold. One is based on a general knowledge of history. By and large, nations don't go to war when they are in trouble at home. ... The second proposition is a purely Russian one. The Russian foreign policy is assertive and expansive, but prudent and patient.

Q: Should the US be trying to help the Soviets in their reforms?

A: Yes, if they begin to make systemic changes which would facilitate both their transformation internally and their

external participation in the international community. ... But we shouldn't simply rush in a lot of money on the grounds of helping Gorbachev. It would be wasting money. It may in fact delay the needed choices.

Q: Why was Gorbachev's approach to reform so different from China's?

A: In China, society has always been commercially oriented, on a largely individual basis. In Russia, for decades, commercial activity has been subordinated by the state. In China, you have an external trade organisation, especially along the long maritime coast. In Russia, there's been relatively little involvement in world trade, traditionally. So in China, you loosen the bonds somewhat, and perestroika becomes reality. In Russia you loosen the bonds, and there's a vacuum.

Q: So therefore Gorbachev's approach was not a mistake?

A: Right. I think he was in a very difficult position. I think he realised, and was right in realising, that if he didn't simulate glasnost, then perestroika from above wouldn't work — all you would get is a little sloganeering, a little bit of regimented change. ... What he probably didn't expect was the depth to which Stalinism had alienated people, particularly among the non-Russians. Therefore I think he was taken aback by the intensity of national self-definition, which now is a real challenge to the integrity of the Soviet Union — really, the Soviet "Dis-union."

Q: How should the US respond to this?

China's economic successes?

A: I'm in favour of creating maximum opportunities for incorporating China into the Pacific prosperity region. And I think the Chinese have decided to move that way because they've put more emphasis on development of the coastal region ... It's a very, in some ways, controversial policy. It means the coastal region will develop much more easily than the inland region. But I think it is in our interest to try to attract China, just as it is in our interest to, for example, be responsive to change in Hungary and Poland.

Q: How do you see the Soviets' military situation, in light of communism's decline?

A: I think the Soviet Union will remain a great military power in the foreseeable future. And it will try to sustain that interest increasingly on the basis of great power nationalism, Russian nationalism.

Q: How should the US respond to this?

A: That really depends on what they (the Soviets) do. It also depends on how much progress they can make in arms control negotiations. ... But I think precisely because the Soviet Union has become only a one-dimensional world power, only a military power, we have to be very careful not to let them gain the edge in that domain. ... If we offset them (through arms control), then I think we can generally say that we are prevailing in all the other respects.

1989, The Christian Science Monitor.

No one moves out at night except police

Amritsar is booming but Punjab countryside still terrorised

By Raju Gopalkrishnan

AMRITSAR, (AP): Once-deserted restaurants are crowded until midnight, and the gunfire that used to echo through the streets is little more than a bad memory.

Amritsar, long the centre of the bloody, 7-year-old separatist war by Sikh radicals, is bustling with revitalised energy nearly a year after government forces dislodged the militants from the Golden Temple, holiest shrine of the Sikh faith.

But the terror that once gripped the dusty town in Punjab state has shifted to villages and wheat fields of the countryside.

"Amritsar is now a boom town," said Sanjay Gaihoura, a Hindu hotel owner. He said he plans to build a four-storey shopping centre in the city, adding: "Last year I would have been called a fool."

Amajit Walia, owner of a shop selling televisions and electrical appliances, said his sales are increasing.

"People don't care for the militants any more," he said. "Spirits are high in Amritsar."

The most visible change over the past year in Punjab is at the Golden Temple, which gets its name from the gold plating on its walls. Hundreds of pilgrims throng the marble walkway around the shrine, earlier inhabited by rifle-toting militants.

Sikh devotees in orange and blue turbans are accompanied by wives and children. A Hindu visiting the temple is no longer labelled foolhardy.

The change came after security forces laid siege to the temple last May. More than 40 people were killed, and nearly 200 militants, including many of the separatist movement's leaders, surrendered and were arrested.

Police say clearing the temple left remaining militants leaderless and without a base of operations. Armed police remain on guard outside the temple, frisking visitors for weapons to avoid a return to the old days when the Golden Temple resembled a fortress.

But the war continues in the fields outside Amritsar's city limits.

"There is terror in the countryside, terror and threats," said Mukhtiar Singh, a doctor in the village of Jagdev Kalan, a mud-and-brick hamlet 22 kilometers (14 miles) north of Amritsar.

The government is not doing anything for our protection. The Hindus had left earlier. Now, Sikhs are joining them to find safety in big towns," he said.

About 8,000 people, all Sikhs, live in Jagdev Kalan. Most till the wheat fields surrounding the village. Some work at the local school and grocery shops.

Mukhtiar Singh said the 200 Hindus in the village moved to Amritsar after an attack by Sikh militants in August 1987 left at least 12 Hindus and Sikhs dead.

The violence did not halt with the Hindu's departure. Sikh militants, now turn their guns on fellow Sikhs, accusing them of being police informers or failing to show enough enthusiasm for the separatist movement.

At least 15 Sikh families have left Jagdev Kalan so far this year, Mukhtiar Singh said.

"The village is not safe," said Harbhajan Singh, the village's headman. "No one moves out at night, only the police. And if there is a gunshot, all lights in the village go out."

That happens about once every two weeks, he said. "I don't know who is firing at whom. It could be the police, or it could be terrorists," Harbhajan Singh said. "I don't try to find out."

As ordained by their faith, all Sikh men use the name Singh, which

means lion in the Punjabi language.

Mukhtiar Singh said wealthy Sikhs are fast becoming the main sources of money for the militants. A demand for money is followed by a visit and then an attack on those who do not comply, he said.

"Militant activity has shifted from fundamentalism to petty crime," said C. Pal Singh, police inspector-general in Amritsar. "There is no leadership, so the militants cannot get organised. They hit soft targets if they can."

More than 550 people have been killed in Punjab this year. At least 2,400 people were killed in the state in 1988.

Civil administrators blame police for allowing the situation to drift after last year's Golden Temple siege.

"The killings continue because the police are inept," said Sarabjeet Singh, the top administrator of Amritsar district. "They did not take advantage of the situation after the siege. At that time the terrorists were on the run."

He said that in the last three months, in the Amritsar district alone, more than 500 villagers have left their homes for the relative safety of larger towns.

Sikh militants have been fighting for an independent homeland since 1982 and until last year focused their campaign in and around the Golden Temple. In 1984, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the Army to raid the temple and oust the armed radicals. At least 1,200 people were killed in the fighting, and Mrs Gandhi was assassinated six months later by two of her Sikh bodyguards.

Sikhs, distinguishable by their flowing hair, brightly coloured turbans and untrimmed beards, form 2 per cent of India's 880 million people. They reside in many parts of northern India but are originally from Punjab, where the community makes up 55 per cent of the 20 million population.

Eastern president outlines company's business plan

US recession is not in the making, say economists

NEW YORK, April 30, (UPI): A consortium of New York financial institutions has submitted a more than \$1 billion bid to buy strikebound Eastern Airlines, a lawyer representing the group said on Friday.

The proposal was submitted to the Federal Bankruptcy Court in New York and David Shapiro, the court-appointed examiner in Eastern's bankruptcy proceedings, said Harry Gotimer, a lawyer for the New York firm of Kirin, Campbell and Keating.

The bid call for paying the \$1 billion-plus sum to acquire the airline and "additional unspecified assets," and for start-up costs, Gotimer said.

Plan
If the offer is accepted, Eastern would be barred from selling off any of its assets. The offer also would require that unspecified "former Eastern assets" be returned to the company.

Eastern, which announced last week it was not for sale, had no immediate comment.

Eastern president Phil Bakes outlined

the company's business plan on Monday, six weeks after the airline was forced to file for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection because of a crippling strike by machinists and pilots.

Under the plan, the airline would sell \$1.8 billion in assets, including 98 of its 255 aircraft. The \$1.8 billion also includes the proposed sale of the New York-Washington-Boston shuttle operation to Donald Trump for \$365 million.

Bakes said Eastern would use the badly needed cash to begin paying back creditors and rebuilding a scaled-back version of the airline without union workers.

Bakes said Eastern hoped to have a reorganisation plan approved by the Bankruptcy Court by September.

But union leaders expressed doubts the plan would be approved. Furthermore, the Pilot's Union said Hyatt Hotel magnate Jay Pritzker also has submitted a bid for Eastern, and Trans World Airlines chairman Carl Icahn planned to do the same soon.

In other airline news, United Airlines Wednesday placed a \$15.74 billion order for new aircraft with the Boeing Co. United has asked for 370 new planes, including 120 firm orders and 130 options for 737s, and 60 firm options for 757s.

The government released a series of reports during the week showing further signs of an economic slowdown, but the consensus among economists appeared to be that a recession is not in the making.

The index of leading economic indicators, which came out on Friday and is the government's primary gauge of future economic growth, fell 0.7 per cent in March, the steepest decline since last summer. The index eased 0.3 per cent in February and increased 0.8 per cent in January.

The index drop followed reports earlier in the week showing durable goods orders rose only 0.8 per cent in March, less than the 1.4 per cent rise economists had predicted; and personal income climbed 0.8 per cent in March but personal spending rose only 0.2 per cent,

the lowest monthly hike since September.

The government also reported first-quarter gross national product rose at a 5.5 per cent annual rate, slightly higher than analysts had forecast. But when adjusted for last summer's drought, the nation's GNP actually slowed to three per cent during the first quarter.

In corporate news, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co. cleared the final hurdle to completing the largest takeover in corporate history when RJR Nabisco stockholders approved the deal on Thursday at a special meeting in Wilmington, Delaware.

KKR, a New York investment firm that specialises in leveraged buyouts, won control of food and tobacco giant RJR Nabisco last year with its record \$24.9 billion bid. KKR chose Louis Gerstner to head RJR Nabisco a few weeks ago.

Gerstner announced on Thursday that corporate headquarters would be transferred to New York from Atlanta. Gerstner, who lives in a suburb of New

York, said the move could be completed as early as this summer, but he did not say how many of RJR Nabisco's 450 Atlanta employees would be transferred to New York.

Gerstner said the staff at the new headquarters would be "much smaller" than the current Atlanta work force.

Mobil Corp., the largest US company in South Africa, said it has agreed to sell all its operation in southern Africa to General Mining Union Corp., a South African company.

Mobil chairman Allen Murray said on Friday the sale was a business move prompted by legislation recently approved by Congress to discourage US economic participation in the racially segregated country.

A Mobil spokesman said the sale would result in a net book loss of \$140 million.

Mobil, which employs 2,793 workers in South Africa, 1,588 of them non-white, had long advocated keeping operations in South Africa to aid development of blacks.

Soviets buy 1.15m tons of US corn, sorghum

Moscow seeks wheat at subsidised prices

WASHINGTON, April 30, (UPI): The Soviet Union bought 1.15 million metric tons of US corn and sorghum, virtually assuring record sales to the Kremlin this year, the Agriculture Department said on Friday.

Meanwhile, President Bush met with a cabinet council to discuss a possible subsidised sale of grain to the Soviet Union but did not make a decision, Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

For several days, there have been reports the Kremlin was seeking two million tons of wheat at subsidised prices. Representative David Nagle, an Iowa Democrat, said US failure to offer the subsidy prevented the striking of a deal while US-Soviet grain consultations were held this week.

The issue of sales to the Soviets has become entangled with questions over the future of the export enhancement programme, the export subsidy system that has been the major US tool in seeking a bigger share of the world market.

Sale
In the new sale, the Kremlin bought 1.05 million tons of corn and 100,000 tons of sorghum. The corn may be worth \$111 million, based on prices at the Chicago Board of Trade.

The Soviets have purchased 14.26 million tons of American corn and four million tons of

wheat since the trading year opened — the second largest amount ever. The record for sales of wheat and corn, the grains covered under the long-term grain agreement, is 18.6 million tons, set in 1984-1985.

Five months remain in the marketing year.

All the wheat sales to the Soviet Union this year have been made at subsidised prices. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter has said the department will move cautiously on sales out of concern about drought and low stocks, but there have been allegations of White House pressure to curb EEP sales.

A spokesman for Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas said there were reports that a sale of three million tons of wheat to the Soviets was being negotiated but it was not clear if a subsidy would be a requirement. Dole views the export subsidy programme as "an essential tool for regaining international competitiveness," said spokesman Walt Riker.

He said Dole spoke to Yeutter and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu on Friday to emphasise his support for the programme.

On Thursday, the Agriculture Department raised the ceiling for Soviet purchases to 24 million tons, a four million-ton increase. It said record sales were likely.

Ozal tries to stimulate growth

Pressures mount in Turkish economy

ISTANBUL, April 30, (Reuters): Pressures are mounting in the inflation-ravaged Turkish economy as Prime Minister Turgut Ozal tries to balance budget restraint with demands for measures to stimulate economic growth.

Ozal is torn between implementing what he believes is economically necessary and what he feels is politically desirable.

His austerity measures have reduced the annual inflation rate to 64 per cent from a high of 87.5 per cent last November, but they have also stirred labour unrest.

Output
In defiance of a government ban, hundreds of thousands of workers are expected to stage May Day rallies this week to demand huge wage rises.

Demand for consumer goods has slumped. Car makers, who

once haughtily kept customers waiting six months for a new car, have slashed output by a third as demand dropped. Easy credit has in turn become a fact of life.

"Everyone is uneasy today in Turkey," Bosphorus University economist Tansu Ciller told Reuters. "There is no ... plan. Everything comes after a couple of touches on a calculation."

Ozal, fighting for his political life after 78 per cent of Turks voted against him in local elections last month, has chosen to pump some more cash into the system.

He has promised loans to house-building co-operatives of 8,000 billion lira (\$3.9 billion) and advance payments of 1,000 billion lira (\$483 million) to farmers in 1989.

But some officials are trying to maintain the strict monetary policy which helped to curb infla-

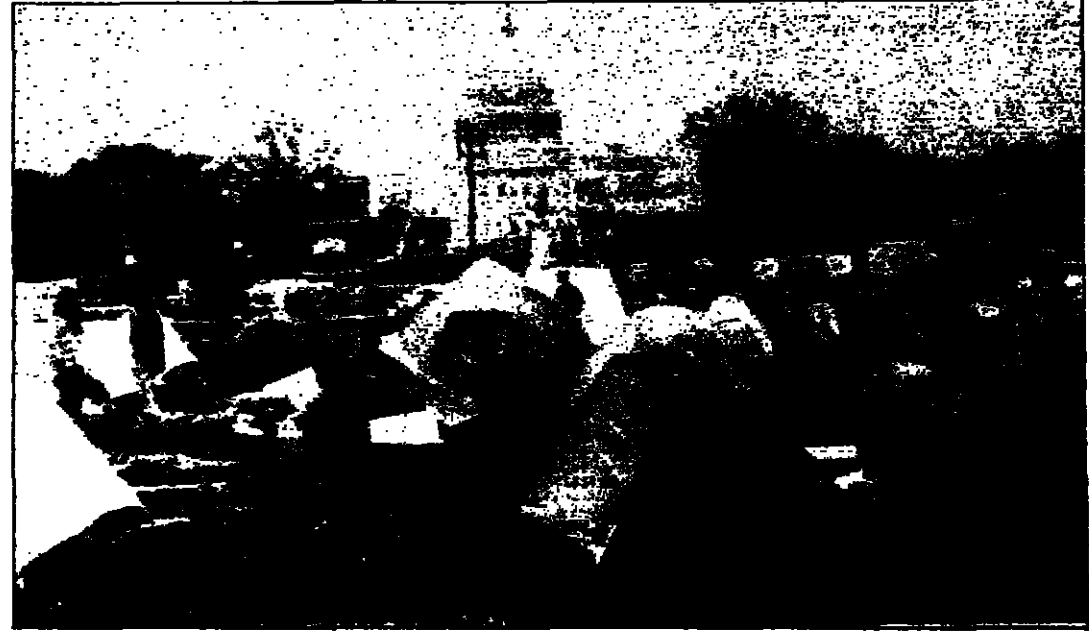
tion. "Solutions for revitalising the economy ... should not conflict with inflation which has started to come down," Central Bank Governor Rusdu Saracoglu warned last week.

"With all these state payments, demand will rise before production can meet it. This will fuel inflation," he added.

Exports

The driest spring in three decades is also troubling policy makers. A good harvest supported a 1988 growth rate of 3.4 per cent, despite a slump in industrial growth.

Officials estimate industrial growth may be zero for the first quarter of 1989 and some fear that exports and the balance of payments, so far not badly hit, may ultimately be affected.



Adequate housing needed

Homeless advocates arise with the sun on the lawn in front of the US Capitol Building on Saturday. The advocates have gathered to protest the Bush administration's current policies on the homeless and to demand adequate housing. (Reuters wirephoto)

ENI nearly doubles profit

ROME, April 30, (Reuters): Italy's giant state energy group ENI nearly doubled its group profits in 1988 and is forecasting a further jump of more than 20 per cent this year.

Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi president Franco Reviglio told reporters the group's consolidated net profit surged to 1,316 billion lire (\$1.01 billion) in 1988 from 708 billion lire (\$546 million) in 1987.

ENI was expecting a further rise in profits to 1.6 trillion lire (\$1.2 billion) this year, he added.

Profits this year would be boosted by the group's improved structure following a rationalisation of its energy, chemical and metallurgical sectors and the merger of the bulk of its chemical activities with those of Montedison SPA in a new company, Enimont SPA.

Reviglio said the energy sector accounted for 60

per cent of the group's 1988 net profits while chemicals accounted for 30 per cent and other activities such as metallurgy, mechanical engineering and services and textile machinery 10 per cent.

Profit

The energy sector showed a profit in 1988 only slightly lower than in 1987, despite a three-dollar fall in average crude prices per barrel, with earnings buoyed by improvements in its crude oil supply, refining and distribution system.

Overseas business accounted for 40.4 per cent of ENI's 33.1 trillion lire (\$25.4 billion) turnover last year, up from 35.2 per cent in 1987.

Reviglio said the chemical sector made its first major contribution to group profits in 1988 due to good demand and rationalisation measures.

Draft '90 EEC budget up 5.4pc

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 30, (AP): The EEC commission Wednesday proposed a budget of \$54.3 billion for the 12-nation trade bloc in 1990, up 5.4 per cent from this year's budget, but with farm expenses practically unchanged.

The EEC executive, which drafted the 48.9 billion European currency units budget that must be approved by the European parliament and the 12 European Economic Community member states, said its 1990 budget proposal amounted to 1.1 per cent of the EEC's gross national product.

Presenting the draft budget to the press, EEC Budget Commissioner Peter Schmidhuber said farm spending, set at 26.8 billion Ecu (\$29.7 billion), was only 0.4 per cent higher than for 1989.

Farm spending still accounts for 54.9 per cent of the total budget, he said, but this compares with 57.6 per cent in 1989 and 60.7 per cent in 1988. Schmidhuber pointed out that so-called structural funds, aimed at helping less developed areas in the community, would rise 21.5 per cent from the 1989 figure to reach 11.5 billion Ecu (\$12.7 billion).

The draft budget will be submitted for a first reading to the European parliament in June.

KUWAIT									
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			
NATIONAL BANK	0.980	0.990	0.990	0.980	1455000	41			
GULF BANK	0.380	0.375	0.375	0.375	750000	18			
COMMERCIAL BK	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.285	60000	5			
AHLI BANK	0.330								
B.K.M.E.	0.335								
K.R.E.B.	0.340								
BURBAN BANK	0.290	0.295	0.295	0.290	380000	12			
K.F. HOUSE	0.480	0.485	0.490	0.485	1030000	17			
INVESTMENT SECTOR									
KWT INV. CO.	0.095								
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210								
K.I.T.C.	0.062	0.067	0.067	0.066	180000	3			
COM. FACILITIES	0.425	0.420	0.420	0.420	18607	1			
AHLI INV.	0.000								
I.F.A.	0.068								
INV. PEARL KWT	0.080								
NATIONAL INV.	0.065								
KWT PROJECTS	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.079	280000	5			
INSURANCE SECTOR									
KWT INSURANCE	0.590								
GULF INSURANCE	0.000								
AHLIA INS. CO.	0.000								
WARBA INS. CO.	0.340								
REAL EST SECTOR									
KWT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.124								
UNI R.E.S.T. CO.	0.056								
NAT R.E.S.T. CO.	0.180								
SALHIAN R.E.	0.080								
KWT R.E.I. CON	0.000								
INDUSTRY SECTOR									
NAT IND. CO.	0.500								
KWT M.P. IND.	0.300								
KWT CEMENT CO.	0.170								
REF. IND. CO.	0.000								

AMMAN									
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71							
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60	4.60							
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63							
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.27	1.25							
GENERAL MINING	2.10	2.10							
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.75	0.75							
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44							
IND./MATCH JENCO									
INDSTR/DEVLPT/BNK	1.63	1.65							
INDSTR/COM/AGR.									
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75							
INTERN.COM/INV	0.13	0.13							
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90							
ISLAMI INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64							
ITERMED/PETRI/CH									
J.TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80							
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29							
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.75	19.75							
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.90	1.90							
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05							
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.45	1.46							
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22							
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY									
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30							
JOR INDUSTRY CHEN.									
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20							
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83							

KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE									
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE			
FINANCIAL SECTOR									
GULF INTL INS.	0.000								
ARAB INT CO.	0.000								
SHARJAH INS.	0.000								
GULF UNION INS.	0.000								
R.K.WHITE CHMT	0.000								
ARAB CHARTER	0.000								
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR									
B-FUJAIH CENT	0.000								
C-SHARJAH CENT	0.010								
D-GULF CEMENT	0.010								

AMMAN									
JOR LIM BRICK	0.19	0.19							
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50							
JOR NATIONAL BANK									
JOR PAPER CARDBOARD	3.75	3.60							
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.64	3.64							
JOR PIPES MANUFACT.									
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72							
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40							
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.									
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11							
JOR SELFHO CHEN.									
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY									
JOR WOOSTED MLL	5.00	5.00							
JOR KUWAIT AGR	0.91	0.91							
JOR PETROL MINT REF									
JOR.FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45							
JOR INV.FIN.CORP	2.35	2.30							
JORDAN GULF REAL									
JORDAN DAIRY									
JORDAN GULF BANK									
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95							
JORDAN INSURANCE									
JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK									
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK									
JORDAN TANNING	2.05	2.06							
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71	0.71							
MACH/EQU/REPT/HAIR									

Recruit Company seeks to clean up image

TOKYO, April 30, (Reuters): The Recruit Company, at the heart of the scandal that this week forced Japan's prime minister to announce his resignation, is trying hard to clean up its tarnished image.

The company, which has grown at a phenomenal rate in recent years to become a major publishing and telecommunications group, is accused of making massive payments to dozens of politicians and other people in an effort to expand its business.

A Recruit spokesman told Reuters the company recently established a committee to look at ways to escape its negative image.

Recruit president Naotaka Ida said at a

recent induction ceremony for new employees that most companies congratulated their new workers on being accepted for employment.

"Instead of saying congratulations, I want to thank you for having the courage to join our company," he said.

The company, whose founder, Hiromasa Ezoe, has been in jail since February on multiple bribery charges, celebrates its 30th birthday next year and wants the year to mark a rebirth for the concern, said a spokesman.

The billion

INDIAN VIDEO ROUND UP

High cost of earning wages of sin

By Fathima Ahmed

Arab Times staff

SEVERAL attempts have been made to hoodwink the public. Aakhi Baazi certainly won't be the last. Nusrat Syed takes credit for the story about filial loyalty. So, who cares? For starters, Nusrat does. Director Ashim Samanta takes it seriously that your blood curdles as the gang war between P.K. Cobra (Shatrughan Sinha) and Shakaal (Sadaashiv Amrapurkar) blows out of proportion. The only missing ingredient is the presence of a "snoopy reporter" to record the number of killings that take place or keep a score of who is winning by half a point as contenders for the dubious winner's title ride on high horses.

Now, one need not be a genius to figure out the cause of Dushmani (enmity) between the two gang bosses. P.K. Cobra was not PK to start with. He was a "coolie", an honest to god man who lived and breathed honesty until he meets Shakaal.

The rest is cinematic history. The man who earned an honest living by carrying the "burden" of suitcases becomes PK Cobra, who has "stooped under the burden of guilt". It is not long before he has to pay a high price for earning the wages of sin.

To make matters worse P.K.'s brother Ram (Govinda) and Lakshmi (Kunal Goswami) believe he is a demi-god. When a deity falls off a pedestal, all hell breaks loose.

Kunal Goswami is Manoj Kumar's offspring. In Aakhi Baazi, he seems to be making a last, desperate attempt to come back, with the 16-year-old Sonam's backing. He plays a police officer, who is torn between duty and loyalty; both perish in a hail of bullets.

The inventors of video cameras, tape recorders and bulletproof vests may not have dreamed how their inventions would be used in Hindi films.



Govinda

One can't help but wonder what they did before the advent of video cameras to blackmail each other.

The saving grace of the film is Govindaji, who takes over the duty vs family battle from Kunal. In the process, he dances in night clubs with Mandakini.

One thing constantly bothers you. Why does Shatrughan Sinha look 20 years younger after an equal number of years elapse?

The film has been produced by Shakti Samanta, but it has none of the Shakti banner touches.

Panach Paapi

If you've seen Panach Paapi, released some weeks ago, you'll remember the opening sequence.



Shatrughan Sinha

The infamous five are to prove their innocence, or is it the other way around. Never mind. They'll take you on a merry picnic of street brawls, pub brawls, forest brawls and all kinds of brawls until you've seen them all. Now, a sample of how they all start: a cricket match is in progress; five hoodlums strike and are clean bowled by the commentator as the cricketers carry the battered bodies in wheelbarrows.

Now, if you like to see brawny men with bird brains making a fool of themselves, you'll enjoy this film. You'll also find it tolerable if you want to get some quick lessons on how to reform hooligans.

The infamous five are played by Chunky Panday (Raja); Shakti Kapoor (Chus Lee); Hemant Birje (Bhima) and Danny Denzongpa (Inder). Who is the fifth? Find out for yourself. Kimi Katkar also stars.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya; Tel: 471-2900; and Falcon Video, Abbasiya.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV1

- 11.00 Holy Quran
- 11.30 Al Madras Al Mohamadeya: religious programme
- 12.15 Cartoon
- 12.30 Cultural film
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 A re-run for the World via Satellite
- 1.30 Sherlock Holmes: cartoon serial
- 2.00 Qandeel Shabiya: historical serial
- 3.10 Ashra'at Al Iman: religious programme
- 3.35 Hatab Wa Nar: Arabic serial
- 4.30 A re-run for Musabakat Ramadan
- 5.00 Ashwaqi Bila Hudood: Arabic serial, part 10
- 6.30 Safinat Al Asdiqa: cartoon serial
- 7.00 Ba'ad Al Iftar: religious programme
- 7.15 Al 'Tan' seen: local children's serial
- 8.00 Cultural film
- 8.30 Holy Quran and Science: religious programme, written and presented by Ahmad Shawqi, directed by Jassem Al Najdi
- 9.30 Musabakat Ramadan
- 10.00 Arabic news

KTV2

- 10.50 Khuth Wa Khal: local serial
- 11.45 Assakum Min Ewadah: written and presented by Rasha Majdi
- 12.00 Al Tholathiya (Najib Mahfouz): daily
- 1.00 Local cultural late night show: show guest Dr Abdullah Al Otaibi: written and presented by Amal Abdullah
- 2.15 News summary
- 2.20 The World via Satellite
- 2.50 Holy Quran and closedown
- 8.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Islamic Horizons
- 8.20 Cartoons
- 8.30 Wild America: "Yellow Stone Lake." A look at America's lake in the North West of Wyoming... wildlife around the lake and creatures living in its water... Particularly a kind of fish called "cutthroat"...
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.40 The Holy Traditions in which God Himself



A scene from 227 'Mistaken Identity'

speaks to His Messenger

Name of Science. An ambitious scientist who is even ready to kill anyone for realizing his ambitions... is involved with an attempt to deliver secret information to the enemy... what was the reason behind such attempt...

11.30 French film: "Le Bossu". A look at life during the reign of King Louis XIV of France through the story of "Odor" Duke Philip's daughter...

RADIO PROGRAMMES

- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 1100 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Tech Talk
- 30 The Ken Bruce Show
- 1200 News
- 15 My Music
- 45 Sports Roundup
- 1300 World News
- 09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
- 30 Russia - The Drive to Empire
- 1400 News
- 09 Commentary
- 45 The Girl in His Past (ex 3rd The Picture of Dorian Grey)
- 1500 News
- 15 3rd and the 10th Time Will Tell: 17th Who was Hitler? 24th Opera of the Week
- 1600 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Dangerous in Love
- 30 Tech Talk
- 45 The World Today
- 1700 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Screenplay
- 45 Sports Roundup

- 1800 News
- 30 Multitrack 1 Top 20
- 1900 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 25 Financial News
- 30 Network UK
- 45 Short Story
- 2000 World News
- 09 The World Today
- 25 Words of Faith
- 30 The Vintage Chart Show
- 2100 News Summary followed by Sports Roundup
- 15 Europe's World
- 30 Sports International
- 2200 News
- 2300 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 The Learning World
- 30 Multitrack 1: Top 20

FM Services

- 0600 Opening/Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1300 Easy Listening
- 1330 News on FM Service
- 1340 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Latin America
- 1800 Pops
- 1900 Helter Skelter
- 2000 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Jazz
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening
- 0200 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Andalus
Frisco King
Salvador
Revolution
Hamra
Arabia Film
Drive-In
Arabia Film
Firdous
Baldan (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra and Sri Devi
Fahad Open-Air
Shoorma Bhopali

Fahad
Battle Truck
Jahra
Great Monkey
Rip Off
Granada
Land of Doom
Sulbikaht
Sky Pirates
Jeeb
Nai Bichar
Ahmadi Drive-In
Dance Music

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Africa: Textiles and Crafts
AFRICA: Textiles and Crafts, an exhibition from Nigeria, is at the Sultan Gallery, 8 pm to 11 pm, until May 2, Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday to Wednesday, 8-9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7.00 to 10.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
RAMADAN timings Sat - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 7-10 pm. Collection of Islamic arts.

Sadu House
SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon: 7 to 10 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

MUSIC

Piano Recital
MAY 9: Well-known pianist Klaus Zöll will give a recital at the Sheraton Hotel's Riccardo Restaurant at 5 pm, followed by a cocktail reception. For reservations call the hotel, ext. 104/107/109.

Geet and Gazals
MAY 19: A musical programme "Bhoolay Bhaiy Geet and Gazals" is to take place at Sharq auditorium. They are also on the lookout for singers to participate in this programme. Those interested may contact: Anwar H. Abdullah - 3989111 ext. 6811 8am-3pm.

THEATRE

Hindi play
MAY 4/5: 8 pm. 'Sharq Cooperative Society. Natya Bharati presents Hindi play

entitled 'Bin Baati ke Deep' followed by dinner catered by Caesars. For entry and dinner passes contact Tel: 4880965; 5623810; 3725627.

One-act play
MAY 4-7: Indian Arts Circle will hold One-Act Play Competition in IAC auditorium at Finatites. Twelve Indian Cultural groups shall take part. Three Malayalam plays will be staged on 4th, two Malayalam plays and one Kannada play on 5th, one Tamil, one Bengali and one Gujarati play on 6th, one Marathi and two Hindi plays on 7th. Programme will start at 6.30 pm on May 4 and 5 and at 6.00 pm on 6-7. Awards will be presented on May 25, 1989 at 7.00 pm with a musical show and dinner. For entry passes please contact P.C. George on 4896000 ext. 3643 or 4739359.

EXHIBITIONS

Iranian carpet week
UPTO - May 4. An exhibition of Iranian carpets will be held at the Meridian Hotel, Jahra room at 8 pm. For further information contact 2455550 - 2253/2254/2252/961

SOCIAL

May Queen
May 1, Kuwait Goans will crown May Queen on May 11 at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Bands in attendance. Top Ranks and Next of Kin. For more information call 4881387.

May Day
AD-HOC Committee of Pakistan Peoples Party Kuwait, is organizing "May Day" for Pakistani Labourers on May 1, 1989 at 8.30 pm sharp at Holiday Inn Hotel. Local PPP leaders will address the meeting.

Palao meeting
MAY 2: The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (KAPILKU) will hold their final Palao meeting on Tuesday, at Holiday Inn hotel auditorium at 7.30 to 9.30 pm. All chairmen, vice-chairmen and chairpersons of each sports committee and team captains of all participating teams are requested to attend. Final submission of entries and entrance fees should be submitted to Freddie Fernando,

Chairman of the Palao or to treasurer Vennie Garcia. AVP Willy Sabay is the vice-chairman of the Palao.

Summer Affair
MAY 6: The Weekend Club will host 'Summer Affair '89' on the first day of Eid at the Regency Palace. Music by Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Live contest. Gala buffet. Surprises and prizes galore. Highlight will be the selection and crowning of the 1989 Summer Queen. For reservations contact Hilary 5741380 (2-7.30 pm) Julio 5734513 (5pm onwards) and Mercedes: 4890566 (3pm onwards).

Annual get-together
MAY 8: Kuwait chapter of International Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen will hold their annual get-together at SAS Grand Ball Room at 7 p.m. For further details ring: 2425315.

Remo's Show
MAY 11: The Expatriates Club will hold a dinner-musical at the SAS Hotel. Remo, India's pop-star will be the star performer and Expatriate Queen will be crowned. City Limits and Perfect Strangers in attendance. For details call Tony 2415439; Wilson - 3918905 (office hours); Val - 5614506 after 2 pm.

India Day
MAY 11-12: Various groups and organisations of Indians living in Kuwait have joined to project cultural evenings and entertainments apart from exhibiting the local materials of the regions and to show live demonstrations like Kolam (Tamil Nadu) and others, at the Baed Al Gar Sea Club. Foods of special nature of different sectors of India will also be available. For further details contact 5331456, 4898891, 2644863, 5678762 or 4881387.

May Queen
MAY 11: Kuwait Goans will hold a May Queen function at Messilah Beach Hotel with Top Ranks and Next of Kin in attendance. The cream of the evening will be provided by Alexander Rosario, the singing sensation from Goa. For details contact 2413348/4881387.

Danish Coffee Morning
MAY 14: Daniela invites all

Danish ladies for coffee morning at the Dana Restaurant, May 14, 9.30 am. For reservations call Ingise - 3713670; Mariamne - 3720182 ext 29.

Get-together
JUNE 16: The Go-Go Club will be having a get-together at the Ramada Al-Salem Hotel from 11 am onwards with Stepping Stone and Symphony in attendance. For details contact Raju 2412970.

Casuals Cricket Club
MAY 18: 8 pm, Messilah Beach Hotel. Annual dinner with special guest speaker Brian Close CBE, former captain of England and Yorkshire. Courtesy of British Airways. Live music. For tickets and information call Simon Clements (53333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

Konkani drama
MAY 18-19: Indian Arts Circle, Funaites. MAR Productions presents Konkani drama "Noshibachio Divo Palaulo," directed by Prem Kumar. Gate passes available at Raja Stores. Tel. 2412970.

Kuwait Caledonians
MAY 18: Messilah Beach Hotel. The Caledonians will hold a "celebrity" (gathering) with entertainment by John Carmichael and others. Tel: 5335082; 3727690 ext. 253.

Summer Bazaar
MAY 19: 2.00 pm St Pauls Ahmadi grand summer bazaar at British Embassy compound sale of handicrafts, home cooking and object d'art. Free entry.

Arabian Nights
MAY 19th, 'Arabian Nights' evening at the Jawhara Night-club, Messilah Beach Hotel. Dress: Middle-Eastern of past or present. 20 costume prizes. Tel: 4847461, 2418017, 4846843 ext. 4515, or leave message on 2614201.

HOTELS

At the Kuwait International
A 3-day Eid programme at the Kuwait International Hotel includes: GARDENPOOL: Exotic Mongolian B-B-Q with surprises for the children. Ext 8137. FAILAKA: The rooftop res-

taurant will present an extensive Lebanese mezzeh, Oriental and continental cuisine with live entertainment. Ext 8012. LA PALMA: A celebration lunch and dinner menu - promises to be a gourmet's delight. Ext 8166. LA PATISSERIE: Exclusive corner for families. Eid taking-over cookies on sale. Ext 8014.

At the Meridian
IFTAR: A choice of traditional Ramadan dishes in a choice of superb surroundings. La Brasserie restaurant offers lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine and Mezzah served daily until midnight for only KD5.000. A la carte also featured.

Al Fingan Tea Lounge
offers mouth-watering pastries, jumbo size fresh fruit cocktails, freshly squeezed juices and ice cream delights. Open from sunset till 2:00 am.

Al Waha cafe
offers authentic Oriental specialties, shawarma and cold cocktails. Open from sunset till midnight.

SPORTS

Sikaran Karate
ALL Sikaran-Karate par-

ticipants are requested to come with their uniform (Kimono) for the final submission of their KATA (advance form) to Jojo Medrano, vice-chairman of Sikaran-Karate sports committee. For particulars, please contact Sarah Macarimbang VP for social and cultural affairs on telephone number 4843447.

RAFT RACE '89
MAY 2: 8.30 pm. The third captains' meeting of the Kuwait Third Annual Raft Race will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. All captains are kindly requested to attend. Newcomers are also welcomed.

Windsurfing Club
May 6: Windsurfing and barbecue. Newcomers welcome. Phone Steve 3717694 (home) for details.

Keep fit classes
MONDAYS (6 to 7 pm) separate ladies and mens fit classes with Steve and Chris Hill at the Holiday Inn. Saturdays and Wednesdays (5 to 6 pm) ladies aerobics and Saturdays (6 to 7 pm) mixed aerobics, with Touvi Pakasalo. Saturdays and Tuesdays Yoga (7 to 8 pm)

Sundays squash handicap tournament, all standards welcome...

Pls contact the recreation manager tel. No. 4742000 ext 6788 or 6700.

Swimming Classes
May 8-24: Swimming classes, total 8 lessons - every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. Details at ext 8050. May 9- June 12: Tennis clinic with a choice of 3 different schedules. Details at ext 8050 with Antony Kingma.

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Eating, drinking ... and massaging with gold

Japan's goldfingers

By Minora Koshida

TOKYO, (Reuters): Want your skin to have that golden glow? Get it massaged with gold.

"With its rich, bright shine, gold offers smoother skin than any massage cream," said the manager of a beauty salon in Osaka, western Japan, which offers gold massage.

Japan is now one of the world's largest importers of gold, principally due to a growing demand among the newly affluent for all things golden.

Wealthy Japanese can have their faces massaged with it, eat raw fish wrapped in it or wash dinner down with a gold-laced rice wine.

Some Japanese sushi bars offer the rare and raw fish delicacy with thin gold belts wrapped around it. Others offer dried seasoning with gold in it to sprinkle on noodles.

Some sell sake, the fermented liquor made from rice, with small pieces of gold floating in it. The Japanese have a long history of eating gold — they think it's good for the health.

A full body gold massage at the Osaka clinic takes about an hour and costs 30,000 yen (\$230), while a face massage is 8,000 (\$60), more than double the price for normal massage.

"It stimulates blood circulation much more than any other massage cream and eventually makes the skin shine more than regular cream massages can," a beautician at the clinic said.

The clinic uses a handful of gold foil sheets 0.0001 millimetres thick (0.000004 inch) for

each full body massage. All of the gold is absorbed into the skin, the manager said.

Despite the high price, demand for the service is growing.

"An average of one customer a day shows up for a gold massage. Business has been going well," she said, adding that quite a few customers return at least once a month.

One woman who requested anonymity said she had tried the gold massage and felt her skin was smoother after the treatment. But she said she could not afford the price.

However, a doctor specialising in dermatology who declined to be identified, said the positive effects of such treatment were likely to be more mental than physical.

"All one can get from this kind of massage is psychological satisfaction, no physical benefits at all," he said.

"Gold is one of those materials that is nearly impossible to absorb. From that point of view, I can see no medical merit in a gold massage."

He added that as long as the gold was pure, no skin problems should result from the treatment. However, if it contained lead or zinc, some customers could suffer allergic reactions.

The clinic said it has received several enquiries about the service from men, but has had to turn them down.

"Our clinic is not large enough to have separate rooms for men and women," the spokeswoman said.

"We have to refuse men because customers must be naked for a session."



Japanese schoolboys get a feel of a 63 kg lump of pure gold worth \$757,000 believed to be the world's largest.

A netherworld of saucy entertainment springs up

Is Peking slipping into bad old ways again?

By James Kyng

PEKING, (Reuters): Just down the road from Mao Tse-Tung's mausoleum in central Peking, a netherworld of saucy entertainment has sprung up.

China's late chairman would have loathed it, although it is very tame compared with red light districts in most Western cities.

"Sex-education" shows, and a tea house with waitresses in daring cheongsams have opened in the Qianmen district. Their arrival follows a decade of reforms to the country's communist system aimed at reviving business acumen.

"We only employ young and pretty girls who have a little charm," said Yang Changjian, manager of the Lao She tea house.

Waitresses wear silk cheongsams, long body-hugging dresses slit up both sides from the hemline to the upper thigh. Cheongsams were barely seen outside

foreigner-only hotels in Peking until they began to make a comeback a couple of years ago.

"They are really popular these days. We often get girls coming in and asking the waitresses to slip off their dress in the back office so they can try them on," said Yang.

"Then everyone takes souvenir pictures."

Qianmen, an enclave of narrow alleys that grew up outside the now-demolished city wall, was once the playground of imperial mandarins and a workplace for peddlers, street performers and prostitutes.

After China's communist revolution in 1949, Mao's puritanical followers cleaned up the place as part of a nationwide drive to eradicate any activities that sapped revolutionary ardour.

Tea houses that once crowded the streets of old Peking were closed, branded as feudal and anti-revolutionary.

Lao She's, where waitresses carry trays

of tea, sugared fruit and peanuts to a hubbub of tightly-packed tables, is now the only traditional-style tea house in Peking.

"We sometimes get nostalgic old men coming in," said Yang, himself in his 60s. "They tell us how the old tea houses used to be."

Nearby, down Qianmen's main street and off into an alley, a sign reads "sex education show" above a dark entrance. Rock music blared from speakers next to a man selling tickets to a long queue.

On a recent visit, a ticket cost one yuan (27 cents). Over 100 men packed a dimly-lit, smoke-filled projection room showing a clinical documentary on courting, reproduction and sexual diseases.

At one point, the torso of a nude woman flashed onto the screen. The audience absorbed the scene in silence.

In another dark room adjoining the film-show, youths sat around tables drink-

ing beer while others squinted at billboards detailing the dangers, delights and how-to-do-it of sex.

"Young love is not entirely evil," read one billboard. "But it is not entirely appropriate either. It hinders study and arrests progress at work."

Along another wall, billboards displayed close-up photographs of sexual organs riddled with disease.

During the era of Mao, who died in 1976, and for some time after, China claimed to have eradicated prostitution and sexual diseases.

Until about three years ago, even slightly lewd literature and photographs were rarely seen in Peking. Now, street peddlers hawk romantic magazines and television commercials feature models in revealing attire.

Newspapers have recently carried several stories of couples filing for divorce on the grounds of sexual ineptitude.

Leader in legal poppy cultivation

By John Owen-Davie

BOLVADIN, Turkey, (Reuters): Mehmet Baser looks on happily as his wife and daughter tend young opium poppy plants in a field overshadowed by Turkey's craggy Anatolian peaks.

These are good days for an estimated 200,000 Turkish families earning a living with state blessing from a business dating back some 4,000 years to the early Hittites.

After a brief US-inspired poppy growing ban in the 1970s to remove the stigma of involvement in drug trafficking, Turkey is now a leader in the legal poppy-based painkiller market.

"We took about 25 per cent of the world market of some 225 tonnes last year. We are the biggest producer of morphine and opium alkaloid derivatives," Namik Kemal Atalan, director of the Turkish Opium Board, said.

Atalan said Turkey, with major customers in the United States and Western Europe, was seeking markets in Africa and the Far East and hoped to outrun a major competitor, Australia.

This year's poppy capsule crop from 40,000 hectares (96,000 acres) of central Anatolian land is likely to be some way below an initial estimate of 15,000 tonnes because of frost.

"We have sufficient stocks," said Ahmed Ozgunes, chairman of the state-run Turkish Grain Board which oversees the opiate board and its \$90 million alkaloids factory at Bolvadin with an annual capacity to process 20,000 tonnes of capsules.

In a high-security room of the factory, 220 km (140 miles) southwest of Ankara, 31 tonnes of powdered light brown raw morphine is stored in white plastic bags tied with string.

"Each kilo is sold legally for a minimum of \$185 but for a trafficker, one of these 25 kilo bags would earn enough to build an apartment block in Istanbul, a factory source said.

He said the total stock of 31 tonnes, guarded by steel doors and scanned by television cameras, had an illegal street value of some \$3 billion in Turkey alone.

The factory, opened in 1981, is surrounded by a high wire fence and army-type frontier observation posts overlooking bleak

Anatolian peaks. Its 450 workers are searched regularly. Turkey is a transit area for more than 50 per cent of the smuggled heroin, produced from base morphine, which finds its way to Europe from poppy fields in Iran and Afghanistan.

"There has been virtually no problem with illegal poppy growth in Turkey since the government lifted the growing ban in 1974," a Western narcotics expert said.

"When Turkey signed the 1971 agreement (to stop poppy growing), illicit growth stopped. It shows that if a government wants to stop it, it can," he added.

Para-military gendarmerie troops and helicopters watch the poppy fields, especially from the time the distinctive white and purple flowers bloom in May to the late summer harvest.

Farmers are banned from carrying out the centuries-old method of drawing opium gum from the poppy rod by incision.

Dried pods are harvested only after it has been determined that they have not been incised. Seeds are extracted mainly for new crops and cooking oil and the shells enter the factory.

Apart from morphine, the factory produces derivatives such as cocaine and exports poppy seeds, sought by some countries for pastry decoration and the soap and perfume industry.

Farmers Baser, who also has wheat fields, said he hoped to produce 150 kilos (330 pounds) of poppy straw from one field this year, for which he would receive 750 Turkish lira (36 cents) a kilo from the state, double the 1988 rate.

"We have had no addiction in this area. They are basically a happy people," said Ozgunes, standing in Baser's field in the mainly poppy growing province of Aeyon — "opium" in Turkish.

In an apparent attempt to increase market share, Turkey cut raw morphine prices to about \$150 a kilo a few years ago. But it later agreed to a base of some \$185, Atalan said.

Turkey's main competitors are Australia, India, France, the Netherlands, Hungary and Britain and the United States — the last two producing poppies through firms in Australia.

Atalan said the so-called 80/20 law, passed by the US Congress to persuade Turkey to withdraw from the opium trade, is still in operation. It requires US importers to buy 80 per cent of their narcotics needs from Turkey and India.

Apart from the United States, markets include West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, Egypt, Iran, South Africa and Taiwan.

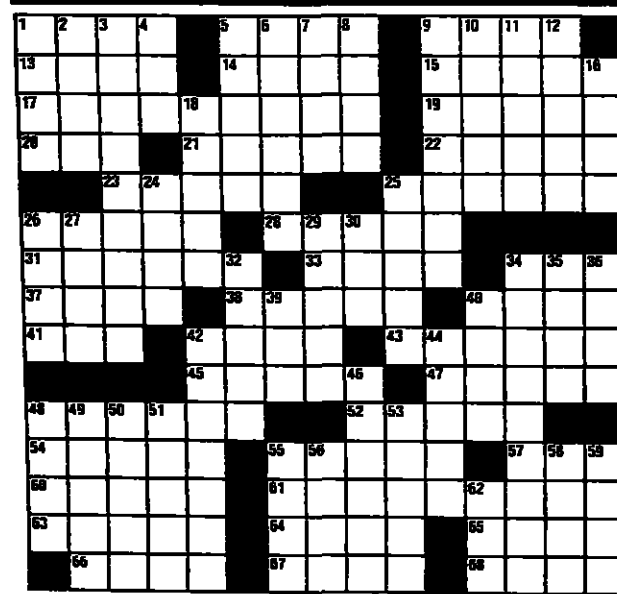
"We want to keep present markets ... and in the near future we hope that the Australians will not be able to compete with us."

They are not state-supported but we are," Atalan said. Australia started growing poppies in 1971 as Turkey halted production.



Two village women hoe the opium poppy plants in a field near Bolvadin, town of central Turkey.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Seaweed product
 - Date, for one
 - Incautious
 - Persevere
 - Deep black
 - Phes
 - Sousa
 - subduet
 - Dad's Dad
 - Inventor
 - Whitney
 - Sea duck
 - Pace
 - Frankie or Cleo
 - Most sensible
 - Family of the twenty-seventh president
 - Part of a midsummer night?
 - Zips
 - Competent
 - Shake
 - High school event
 - Perhaps
 - Almost
 - Memorable
 - impressive
 - Hurk
 - London's restaurant area
 - Galatone
 - Fern
 - Like a clannet
 - Oppressor
 - Tart
 - Rocky — John
 - Rove
 - Polish
 - Nerve
 - Florida's Saint
 - Trunk
 - Members of a Shoshonean tribe
 - Icelandic work
- DOWN
- River to the North Sea
 - Stringed instrument
 - Bright sign component
 - Crest
 - Line on a football field
 - Trick victim, sometimes
 - Part of R & F
 - Breed of duck
 - Bore
 - Clayton Moore's Ranger
 - Excc
 - Alexander's band plays this
 - 640 make a section
 - Opprobrium
 - Plants with tough fibers
 - Name for a Dalmatian
 - Caper for a yegg
 - Scintilla
 - Diana is its princess
 - Recipe amts.
 - Before bat or phobia
 - Celulose fabric
 - Dwindle
 - Young salmon
 - Traditional newlywed
 - Made a hole in one
 - Bank on
 - Triumphant exclamation
 - Bridge part
 - Soap opera need
 - Victimizes, with "on"
 - Mark
 - Liability
 - "Crazylegs" Hirsch
 - Castor and Pollux
 - Western movie staple
 - Effect's companion
 - Novelist Bellow
 - Garb for Giselle
 - Reverse
 - Lims, for example
 - Perfect rating

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

RAPS RAPIS OPAL
ALOT IDIOT RENO
PAPER MONEY ATTA
IMPRESS SLANTED
DOYEN EDGY
OTTTERS DECOR
SAPS ALLIAS SAGE
ALI PASTA SRA
WAGE STEAL SHED
SIGNS ERNEST
YARN WASTE
CABBIES FLIRTED
ORAL SHOESTRING
MINE TIBET ELSA
OAKS SPLITS DEER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
GET THAT OVERTICK

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K Q J 6 3
♥ 8 7 4
♦ Void
♣ 10 6 3 2

EAST
♠ 10 8 7 4 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A Q 10
♣ J 10 9 8 7 4

SOUTH
♠ Void
♥ K J 6 5 3
♦ A K
♣ A Q J 9 8 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦
2 ♠ 3 ♦ 4 ♦ Pass
4 ♥ Pass 5 ♣ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
At rubber bridge, the play largely revolves around safety plays and daring defense in an attempt to beat the contract. At duplicate, the key features are overtricks and undertricks, major suits and minors.

On this hand from a pair tournament, those Norths who became too mesmerized by the extra points

earned in a major suit were justly penalized for electing to play six spades rather than six clubs. The spade break meant that they had an unavoidable loser in each major.

Six clubs was often reached on an auction such as the one above. Note that, despite his excellent offensive potential, South never made a jump bid. He devalued his hand because of his spade void, but that did not prevent the percentage slam from being reached.

After the lead of the ace of diamonds, most declarers made only 12 tricks. The diamond lead was ruffed in dummy and the outstanding trumps were drawn. Declarer crossed to the ten of clubs and cashed the high spades, taking four heart discards. When the suit did not break, he could set up a long spade with a ruff, but the club spots prevented him from getting back to the table to enjoy it.

At one table declarer had no trouble making all the tricks. After ruffing the diamond in dummy, he immediately ruffed a spade in hand. Now after drawing trumps with a high trump in hand, he had no problem getting back to the board with the ten of clubs to cash five spades and get rid of all his hearts.



"I was showing my sister-in-law how I slammed his thumb in the car door."

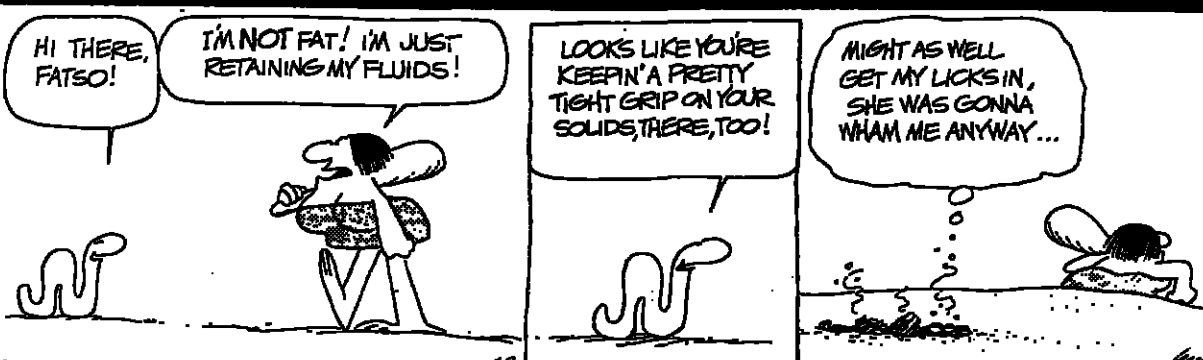
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You will be able to get a lot done today but only if you concentrate really hard. Do not allow yourself to be persuaded against your better judgment. Make sure your reputation is not tainted. Be more moderate.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You should seek to rid yourself of some outdated points of view. Do not be shy to show your love. On the contrary, you should not try to be in too great a hurry. Be prompt.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
You will be able to obtain good results only if you do not get stuck in a rut. Not everything will be to your liking. But some things certainly will be that and more. Make sure you have got your facts right. Be more methodical.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
Something you have been trying to do for a long time without success should be reconsidered: it may not be worth pursuing any further. Do not do anything injurious to your health. Show a little more goodwill towards others.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You should try to rid yourself of some prejudices and preconceptions. Something you had mislaid will turn up in a quite unexpected place. There is absolutely no time to waste. Be practical.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You will be able to do something you greatly enjoy, but do not neglect the chores that also have to be done. A good opportunity will not wait for you and could well be missed. You should avoid exceeding the limits of propriety.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
You will have plenty of energy, but if you do not look out you could well misplace it. Do your utmost to avoid getting into an argument. Take care about what and how much you eat. Be reliable.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You will tend to spend too much time dealing with secondary matters. Try to ensure you put everything in its right place: once lost it will be hard to find. Something that you had thought had been settled once and for all will re-emerge.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should not place too much trust in your instincts and intuitions. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 52. There is every need for you to use your common sense. Listen carefully to what others are saying. Be confident.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You should avoid doing something merely because you have always done it that way. A temptation to do something you know you should not be resisted. Do concentrate on essentials leaving details until later. Be selective.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You will be rather excitable and should do your level best to keep calm. Nothing is quite as important as you think it is. Only do be careful to keep your expenditure within limits. Be observant.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
If you are obstinate you will lose far more than you gain. You should not expect others to do just what you would like them to do. You should try not to let anyone or anything deprive you of your freedom of action. Be more tactful.

Apples sprayed with potentially harmful chemicals

A bite more than you bargained for

By Frances Hardy

APPLES symbolise health; they epitomise everything that is good, sound and sensible in diet. They are packed with vitamins, fat-free and orchard fresh.

Eat one daily, advises the adage, and you keep the doctor away. They look healthy too; flawless, lustrous, polished to mirror-finish, they present a convincing image of natural goodness.

But the truth is, many of the apples we see ranged in shrink-packs on supermarket shelves are far from natural and healthy. An alarming profusion of chemicals have been sprayed on them to give them that blemish-free sheen. The appearance we construe as natural, is, in fact, attained through artifice.

More sinister, still, millions of the apples we eat are being sprayed with chemicals which are potentially harmful. The chemical, alar, used by apple growers to make more buds set and grow into mature fruit, is at the heart of the current controversy. Reports in America have linked it, incontrovertibly, with cancer.

But the startling truth is that there are many other commonly-used pesticides and fungicides, banned in some European countries because they have been linked with cancer, which are still regularly used in Britain to give apples their blemish-free skins. Because the consumer has been conditioned to demand physical perfection, he risks poisoning himself.

Richard Young of the Organic Growers' Association contends: "It is not necessary to use these chemicals but most consumers are conditioned to buy blemish-free products."

Growers like Matthew Freudenberg, who has 30 acres of apples and plums in Somerset, does not use the controversial alar chemical. However, he does spray with captan — a fungicide used to eradicate scab, the blotchy formation which affects fruit — and dimocap, a fungicide used to banish mildew.

Intermittently he uses the insecticide fenitrothion which kills codling moth, a pest which makes holes in apples, aphid and red spider mite.

Marion Regan, who farms in Kent, uses dithianon to combat scab and penconazole against mildew. When necessary — but selectively — she uses the insect spray chlorpyrifos.

Fruit farmers like Freudenberg and Regan are increasingly aware of the need to reduce spraying. Both spray selectively, and only where they see evidence of insect infestation.

Regan has switched to 'ultra low volume' spraying and uses vegetable oil additives which cut the volume of spray needed by half. The fact remains that studies have linked many of the chemicals which are used to enhance the appearance of fruit — those used to kill the insects which create the unsightly holes — with cancer and genetic defects. Others are toxic or at best irritants. All these chemicals are on a government approved list.

Among them are gamma HCH, used to kill aphids, which has been found to kill bats when used in wood treatments. Malathion, also an insecticide, is a skin and eye irritant and is suspected of causing birth defects.

Captan, widely used in the UK to eradicate scab, has been listed in America as a suspected cancer-producing chemical. Evidence has been accrued in Russia linking it with birth defects while it is banned in gardens in Sweden, banned in Finland and withdrawn from West Germany.

So who is to blame for the fact that 200 million gallons of pesticide residue are dispersed into the air each year? It's easy to point the finger at the farmer, or at the supermarkets who insist he supplies only perfect looking, blemish-free produce.

But in fact both are driven to the use of chemicals by a public which mistakenly believes fruit that looks healthy must be healthy. It's no use being outraged by the use of chemical sprays unless we are prepared to buy apples that are genuine works of nature in all its discoloured, mis-shapen, cindered glory.



Many of the blemish-free apples we buy are far from healthy.

Weight-loss pill tested

Results promising

SCOTTISH researchers are encouraged by tests of a weight-loss drug known as BRL26830A, which has accelerated fat loss in 20 patients.

The scientists, who work at the Ninewells Hospital and Medical School in Dundee, conducted a double-blind, placebo-controlled study on the drug, meaning that neither the patients nor doctors knew which of the 40 study participants were getting BRL26830A, and which were getting an inert dummy drug.

The patients were given the medication and placed on a low-fat, high-fibre diet for 18 weeks.

When the results were decoded to show which patients had gotten placebo and which BRL26830A, they were encouraging: those getting the drug lost an average of almost 34 pounds, or 0.93 per cent of their weight per week. Those getting the dummy drug lost an average of just 22 pounds, or 0.61 per cent of their weight per week.

Other measurements showed patients getting BRL26830A lost about the same amount of nitrogen — an element released when protein is broken down — as patients getting the placebo. These urine tests and other skin-fold measurements suggested it was accelerated fat rather than lean tissue loss that accounted for the weight loss in the experimental patients.

The doctors said patients getting BRL26830A did not show signs of faster pulse, blood pressure changes, or cholesterol, insulin, sugar or other blood factor differences when compared to the patients getting the placebo.

An earlier study showed the drug increased the body's expenditure of energy 11.6 per cent and the researchers believe the drug works by boosting heat production by burning fat.

The findings were first presented in the British Medical Journal, and summarized recently in the journal of the American Medical Association.

Should doctors assist the terminally ill to die?

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI) — A terminally ill patient lies in the hospital bed. Death is certain. The pain is unbearable. The patient, still in control of his faculties, asks the doctor to help him commit suicide.

What should the doctor do?

According to a controversial new report "it is not immoral for a physician to assist in the rational suicide of a terminally ill person," including giving the patient sleeping pills and telling him how many it would take to overdose.

Funded by the society for the right to die in New York, the report by a panel of 12 prominent American doctors was published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

The report concentrated primarily on how doctors should care for the terminally ill and urged physicians to do everything possible to make dying as painless and humane as possible.

But 10- to 12-member panel added that if everything has been done to make patients as comfortable as possible and a patient who is rational still wants to die, doctors can morally help them.

That conclusion has drawn strong criticism and rekindled the debate over suicide and mercy killing.

"We should not involve the medical profession in killing," said George Annas, a professor of health law at Boston University School of Medicine. "It changes the whole societal mandate and societal perception of physicians. It gives them an added power that I don't think that they want or should have."

While suicide is legal in the United States, assisting suicide remains a crime in most states, Annas noted.

Annas and others argued that permitting doctors to assist in suicide may create further mistrust of doctors and could lead to abuse.

"I don't see any reason to medicalize the question about whether or not someone can kill themselves," said Arthur Caplan, Director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Caplan stressed that at a time when budget constraints are prompting some states to ration medical care, it was inappropriate for doctors to get involved in aiding patients deaths.

"The American medical and cost climate is not conducive right now to anything that suggests doctors could kill," said Caplan. "I think there is a very real danger that patients will suspect that someone administered a drug to hasten death not because of suffering but because of cost or money."

The Hemlock Society, a right-to-die based in Eugene, Ore., however, said the public is increasingly in favour of doctor-assisted suicide and mercy killing.

"Public opinion polls are running about 65 per cent in favour of legal medical euthanasia," said Derek Humphrey, group spokesman. "The public is saying, 'this is not a crime. This is something that should be ok.'"

The panel, however, did not go as far as condoning euthanasia, which it said differs from doctor-

TB: on the increase world-wide

By Richard Luma

HOUSTON, (UPI) — Tuberculosis, thought by many to be a disease of the past, is on the increase world-wide and the AIDS epidemic is primarily to blame, doctors have warned.

"The tuberculosis problem seems to be worsening," said Dr Dixie Snider, director of the division of TB control at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, who was attending a conference on tuberculosis.

"The AIDS epidemic has had a marked influence in the increase of tuberculosis," Snider said. "We are finding many AIDS victims have TB and we are now recommending that all TB patients be tested for AIDS."

The weakened immune systems of AIDS victims makes them particularly susceptible to tuberculosis, experts said.

The number of TB cases is staggering when one considers the disease can be treated, cured and controlled, said Dr Jeffrey Starke, director of the Children's TB clinic at Jefferson Davis Hospital in Houston.

"We are in the midst of a new effort to eliminate tuberculosis from the United States," Starke said. "We can do it if we set our mind to it."

The latest world-wide figures indicate 1 billion to 2 billion people are infected with TB or 20 per cent to 40 per cent of the world's population. About 10 million to 20 million new cases are expected and 3 million to 5 million will die, Starke said.

There has been a steady decline in TB cases in the United States after 1953 when officials began keeping statistics, through 1984 when the numbers began to level off.

Stress on-the-job can make you sick

By Judy Sadrove

Very little research on the health effects of work

OVER Easter, Robert McTaggart, a British MP, aged 43, died of a heart attack. We can imagine the stress of his work — long hours, fierce competition, arduous travel and job insecurity.

And we can appreciate the stress sustained by air traffic controllers, police and doctors. But what about the people in less obviously stressful jobs? Are they feeling the pinch of the efficiency drive sweeping across many offices. Is work-related stress on the increase?

There is little research on the health effects of work (apart from hazards like industrial accidents or toxins) because of the difficulty in measuring stress. But in 1959 US researchers reported that overwork was more important as a risk factor for heart disease than diet, smoking, lack of exercise and family history. And a study in Sweden in 1985 found that fatal heart attacks were commonest in employees who experienced demand for their work without control over it.

So how can you tell if your work threatens your health? According to Dr John Bonn, director of the stress unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, people view work-related stress simply in terms of pressure. But, he insists, its roots lie in belief about ability to cope with the job. Anyone with persistent doubts about performance will show signs of stress: high blood pressure (linked with stroke and heart disease); exhaustion and insomnia; digestive disorders (ulcers and irritable bowel); muscular and skeletal problems (low back pain); headaches and hypertension; infections; and faulty lifestyle — poor diet, smoking, alcohol, and drug abuse, and overconsumption of tea and coffee.

Worrying

Someone worrying about work is likely to withdraw from social commitments and recreation, including exercise. Stress has also been linked with the development of cancer, marital break-down and suicide. First signs at work are bad time keeping and absenteeism.

Some £3 billions are lost to the UK economy each year as a result of stress and anxiety related problems in women alone, says Dr David Bennett, research consultant for the Family Planning Association.

He claims, in a report due out later this year, that British women have the highest rate of sickness in the West (double that of France) — because of lack of healthcare at work. Women's family commitments double their burden with demands at home and at work.

Stress at work compounds stress at home (bereavement, illness and relationship changes) and vice versa. Physical as well as psychological factors play their part. In Sweden, heart attacks are most common in shiftworkers. A recent survey by BMS Applied Systems has found that noise, passive smoking, heat, cold and working at VDUs make people feel irritated and tense. Rush-hour travel is another factor.

But environmental factors are far outweighed by deadlines and lack of communication. Analysis of 500 responses to a questionnaire sent to BIS's executive clients in manufacturing, government, finance, education and the media found that 72 per cent were made tense and irritated by lack of communication and 54 per cent were affected by impossible deadlines. The most common symptom of stress was tiredness (75 per cent).

Stress

Acknowledgement of stress by employers was rare, although executives had faith in the value of stress-management training. Responsibility for poor communication lies on both sides of the fence, says Dr Bonn. Employers fear liability suits and pay only lip service to stress-related disorders. And employees fear for their jobs and are reluctant to express distress. This prejudice against "weakness" leads people to seek anaesthesia via drink or drugs. And the current glorification of tough, aggressive behaviour may erode personal considerations.

At least five per cent of GNP is lost every year as a result of sickness, poor productivity, staff turnover and premature death caused by stress, according to Britain's authority on the subject, Professor Cary Cooper. He views the lack of support for the pace of change we are all experiencing as criminal. Employers see stress as a four-letter word, he says.

The drive for success, new technology, the denial of worker participation in policy-making, and the emergence of women in the workforce with no supporting creche facilities, have interacted to maximise stress at work. But, Cooper emphasises, the British method of management is one of punishment and not reward.

In Japan, where the work ethic is strong, management cares for its most precious resource. The worker and family are protected by communication about policy and provision of recreational, rest and healthcare facilities. Training in the mind-body relationship, assertiveness and problem-solving would transform the workplace. Enabling the employee to express doubt, participate in decision and experience a sense of value might prevent us all from turning into nervous and physical wrecks.



The most common symptom of stress is tiredness.

A little prodding can help you quit smoking

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI) — A little extra prodding can apparently go a long way toward helping more people quit smoking.

That's the finding of two new studies of doctors who are trained in counselling people to kick the habit — and regularly urge their patients to do so.

The take-home message is that very simple reminders can produce significant results," said Stuart Cohen, a professor of medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, who headed one of the studies.

In two studies published in the Annals of Internal Medicine last week, researchers evaluated the effectiveness of measures aimed at helping doctors do more to encourage their patients to quit smoking.

Cohen and his colleagues trained 112 doctors who worked at the Regenstrief Health Centre in Indianapolis how to counsel patients who smoked about quitting.

The researchers then made nicotine gum available for free to the smoking patients of one quarter of the doctors and attached bright stickers to the files of the patients of a second quarter of the doctors who smoked to remind the doctors who the smokers were.

The researchers, who followed all the doctors' smoking patients for one year, found that all the doctors spent significantly more time counselling their patients.

But they also found that while only 2.7 per cent of the smoking patients of the doctors who only received counselling had quit after one year, nearly 9 per cent of the smoking patients of doctors who had free nicotine gum and 15 per cent of the smoking patients of doctors whose files were marked had quit.

"There's nothing fancy-dancy about this. Just putting chart reminders would increase a doctor's effectiveness," Cohen said. "Every physician should label all their charts."

Based on the findings, Cohen estimated that if all doctors used such tactics they could help an additional 2 million smokers quit.

"Physicians could have a major effect on the smoking status of millions of persons in the United States," he wrote.

In the second study, Dr Steven Cummings and his colleagues at the University of California, San Francisco, conducted a similar study involving 81 doctors who worked at Kaiser-Permanente health centres in the San Francisco area.

Like Cohen's study, the researchers gave the doctors training on how to convince patients to quit. They then compared half of the doctors who also had reminder stickers attached to their patients' charts to those who did not.

New findings on urinary tract problems

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI) — Urinary tract infections are one of the most common medical problems especially among women.

New findings in the US however, may lead to development of a blood test that could identify women who are prone to the infections, and help doctors to take steps to prevent the painful episodes.

While much more research is needed, there is also the possibility the findings could help lead to the development of a vaccine against the infections, researchers say.

Up to 20 per cent of women will have one urinary tract infection in their lifetime while up to 5 per cent of women will have repeated infections. Americans go to the doctor as many as 6 million times a year for urinary tract infections.

The infections are caused by bacteria in the urinary tract, usually the bladder. They cause pain and make women feel like they have to urinate.

Women are believed to be more prone to the infections because it's easier for bacteria to get into their urinary tract.

In most cases the infections can be treated with antibiotics, but in rare instances they can become more serious if the infection gets into the blood.

Doctors at the Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York compared the blood of 49 women with a history of repeated urinary tract infections to the blood of 49 women who were not prone to the infections.

Women who had a history of urinary tract infections were nearly 3-1/2 times as likely as those who did not have a history of the infections to have two closely related blood types, the researchers found.

There was no correlation with the commonly known A, B and O blood types. But there was a strong association with blood types known as Lewis AB and Lewis A-B, the researchers reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings strengthen the theory that certain women are born with a tendency to produce more of a type of receptor on the cells in their urinary tracts that makes it especially easy for bacteria to stick to those cells.

Dr Joel Shelnfeld, who headed the research, said, "the implication is that it is possible — and let me underline that — that we may be able to identify patients or people who are at higher risk for urinary tract infections."

Shelnfeld said if women who are prone to the infections can be identified, these women may be able to take antibacterial drugs to reduce the chances they will get the infections.

"This could potentially identify patients who are or are not susceptible to urinary tract infections," Shelnfeld said. "That is very, very important in significance."

Dr Anthony Komaroff of the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston noted: "There are some women that seem particularly vulnerable to getting urinary tract infections again and again."

"One important reason is these women are born with a stickiness to their cells of their urinary tract the bacteria find it easier to stick to their cells," he said. "That's the first step to creating an infection."

"What this study shows is there is a genetic linkage between this tendency to have sticky cells with certain blood groups. There's one gene or two closely linked genes that affect the stickiness of the cells and also affect the kind of blood type people have," Komaroff said.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I've read this term several times, but never understood what they were talking about. What is a "dowager's hump"? What causes it to form, and what do you have to do to get rid of it?

ANSWER: As certain women grow older, past the age of menopause, they develop a curvature of the spine that is the result of a bone condition called osteoporosis. As it becomes more pronounced, it is sometimes called a dowager's hump, one of the definitions of dowager being "an elderly woman of wealth and dignity."

Osteoporosis is predominantly a disease of women. It is a generalised progressive reduction in bone mass, causing the bones to weaken. The spinal column, which is composed of vertebrae, piled one upon the other like a tower of building blocks, supports our skeleton and provides us with a standing posture. As the mineral content (calcium) among others) diminishes in these bones, they begin to collapse slowly with the front (anterior) end of the "block" becoming smaller, changing the shape of the vertebral body from a square into a triangular form.

HUMP CAUSED BY LOSS OF BONE MASS

This creates the curve in the spinal column that we describe as a "hump."

There is no cure for this condition as yet. It may be prevented by an active, healthy life before menopause, with proper nutrition that supplies the calcium and other minerals needed to build strong bones. Once the process has begun it may be halted by replacing the female hormones lost at menopause and supplementary calcium. While real cures are still being investigated, there seems little hope of discovering a medication that would reverse the process and reduce the hump.

QUESTION: With the arrival day for my first baby fast approaching, it seems that all the conversations with my girlfriends now turn to the "cut" the doctor may make during the birth. Can you tell me the scientific name for it, and explain its use? Does it cause a lot of pain?

ANSWER: When a delivery can be helped by providing a bit more room for the baby's head to pass, a physician may elect to perform "episiotomy." The term is from a Greek word, "epision" describing the region to the pubes, and it is through this area that an incision is made. There are several advantages to the procedure, since it can allow a quicker and easier birth and reduce pressure on the baby's head.

Since the forces pushing the baby through the birth canal are powerful enough to both stretch and tear vaginal tissues, making a clean surgical cut at the appropriate moment reduces the possibility of complications that torn tissue can provoke. With all else that is going on at that moment, many women are unaware that the "cut" has been made. After the birth, the incision is repaired as with any other surgical incision and permitted to heal.

Although the swelling and pain passes in a few days to a week, the area may remain tender for a month or so. Total healing is usually completed in about six weeks. The mainstay of care is hygiene, keeping the area clean and free from any possible contamination that could cause irritation or infection. Your own physician will guide you through this period and can counsel you about resuming normal activities and relations.

TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES, INC.

ANDY CAPP

By Smith

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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BASKETBALL

New York made to fight for victory

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): Trent Tucker's 3-point goal with 10 seconds remaining climaxed an 11-0 run that wiped out a 10-point deficit in the final two minutes yesterday, giving the New York Knicks a 107-106 victory over Philadelphia and a 2-0 lead in their best-of-5 playoff series.

Game 3 will be played in New York on Tuesday, with a fourth game, if necessary, on Thursday at Philadelphia. Only two teams in National Basketball Association history have come back to win a best-of-5 series after trailing 2-0.

Johnny Newman led New York with 20 points and Patrick Ewing had 17 despite sitting out most of the game in foul trouble.

Chris Mullin scored 22 points and Rod Higgins hit consecutive 3-point goals to spark a 14-0 run late in the game as the Golden State Warriors defeated Utah 99-91 for a 2-0 lead in their series.

The series resumes Tuesday in Oakland, where the Jazz has lost twice this year. If necessary, a fourth game will be played Thursday in Oakland and game 5 would be in Utah Saturday night.

Karl Malone, held scoreless in the first quarter of the first game, scored 14 in the first quarter Saturday night and had 24 at halftime before finishing with 37. Malone also had 22 rebounds.

Mitch Richmond finished with 21 for Golden State and Teague added 20.

Terry Cummings scored 22 points and reserve Ricky Pierce 20 as Milwaukee snapped an eight-game losing streak against Atlanta, downing the Hawks 108-99 to even their series to 1-1.

Cummings scored 10 of his 22 points in the final quarter and Pierce had eight of his 20 in the third period.

Dominique Wilkins led the Hawks with 32 points, 15 in the third period. Moses Malone added 19 for Atlanta.

Results

Eastern Conference quarter finals
New York 107 Phil 76ers 106
(Knicks lead best-of-five series 2-0)
Milwaukee 108 Atlanta 99 Hawks 98
(Best-of-five series tied 1-1)
Western Conference quarter finals
Golden State 99 Utah Jazz 91
(Warriors lead best-of-five series 2-0)

Coggi outpoints Akinobu to retain WBA title

VASTO, Italy, April 30, (Reuters): Argentina's Juan Martin Coggi survived a third-round knockdown to outpoint Japan's Akinobu Hiranaka and retain his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-welterweight title yesterday.

After flooring the challenger three times in the opening rounds, Coggi was himself dumped on the canvas by a flashing left hook from Hiranaka which clearly took the champion by surprise leaving him dazed and vulnerable.

The Japanese threw himself into attack sensing a shock victory and may have achieved it had he not received a second warning from British referee John Coyle for head butting.

Coggi, making his third defence of the crown, was caught out as he battered Hiranaka on the ropes. But after the early drama, the fight settled into a pattern and Coggi used his southpaw style, longer reach and superior technique to score freely off his slighter opponent.



Mancini (left) holds up his arms in victory after the match while Wilander looks dejected after losing his semi-final match in the Monte Carlo Open (Reuters wirephotos)

Teenager Mancini upsets Wilander again

Becker brushes aside Skoff

MONTE CARLO, April 30, (Reuters): Nineteen-year-old Alberto Mancini of Argentina upset Mats Wilander for the second time in a month with a crushing 6-0 6-3 win in the Monte Carlo Open tennis, Grand Prix yesterday.

Mancini, handing the Swede his biggest humiliation ever on his favoured clay surface, moved into the final of the \$600,000 tournament where he faces second seed Boris Becker.

Becker dismissed Austrian Horst Skoff 6-3 6-3 in impressive style to reach his first Grand Prix final on clay, a surface he is rapidly showing that he has mastered at last.

"A week ago I was happy just to win the first round," he said. "But I've played the whole week against clay court players. I've played good tennis and beaten them all quite easily."

"It shows that you can count a little more with Boris Becker on clay."

Last week one would not have dared suggest that Becker would be a tougher opponent on clay than Wilander. But Mancini may well find that so in this evening's final.

Mancini, ranked 31st in the world, dominated the match so thoroughly that the Swedish world number two managed only seven points in a first set that lasted just 24 minutes.

The 19-year-old, who surprised Wilander last month by beating him at Key Biscayne in their only previous meeting, blasted winner after winner past the bewildered Swede.

"I didn't think I would beat him so easily," Mancini said. "I thought it would be a tough match but as I had beaten him once I thought I could beat him twice."

With his victory, Mancini advanced to only his second Grand Prix final. He beat Spaniard Emilio Sanchez to win his previous one in Bologna, Italy, last June.

Wilander, who won three of the four Grand Slam titles last year but is now without a tournament win for almost seven months, said he was not unduly dejected by his defeat.

"He played unbelievably well," he said. "It's hard to do anything when somebody plays like that."

"I've never played someone who hits with so much speed from both sides. He doesn't have a weak stroke. If you play deep or short, he still plays with spin and fast."

"It's good to get this lesson. I've beaten some good players here but I still can't beat the best on clay."

"I think I'm going in the right direction but obviously it will take a while."

Mancini took the first eight games before Wilander held his serve and only cracked once — when he led 4-1 and 40-0 on his serve in the second set.

Five successive errors gave Wilander a break and the Swede then held serve to move back dangerously to 4-3. But the Argentine calmed down and wrapped up the game.

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Evert survives scare to reach final

Seles romps past Cunningham

ATLANTA, April 30, (Reuters): Top seed Chris Evert survived a first-set scare, while Yugoslav teenager Monica Seles romped to victory yesterday to set up a meeting in the final of the \$250,000 Houston Women's Tennis Championship.

Evert fought off a set point in the opening set before beating fifth-seeded, fellow-American Susan Sloane 7-6 (7-5) 6-2 in a two-hour baseline duel.

Seles, a 15-year-old who has not played enough tournaments in the past 12 months to have a world ranking, routed American Carrie Cunningham 6-0 6-1 in her semifinal.

Evert, who has not lost a set this week, will be seeking her fourth consecutive title here and 158th of her career. Seles will be contesting her first professional final.

Evert, fourth in the world, rallied from 2-5 in the first set but still faced set point at 4-5 with Sloane serving. The former world number one escaped it when Sloane, ranked 21 in the world, sailed a backhand long.

Seles romped to victory in the first set, winning 6-0, and then dominated the second set, winning 6-1. She served 10 aces and hit 18 winners.

Cunningham, ranked 117 in the world, was out of her element against the powerful Seles. She was hit by a series of powerful backhands and forehands.

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ATLANTA, April 30, (AP): Michael Chang, the 17-year-old Californian, out fought and outran the world's top-ranked tennis star, Ivan Lendl, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 last night to advance to the championship match in the AT-and-T Challenge exhibition tennis tournament.

Chang was to meet Andre Agassi in the finals this evening. Agassi advanced Saturday with a 6-2, 6-2 semifinal victory over Yannick Noah.

"I felt very relaxed out there with nothing to lose," Chang said after the 2 hour, 6 minute match.

Lendl was good on only 39 per cent of his first serves and was frustrated by 59 unforced errors.

"I still don't have my clay court game together," Lendl said. "It's normal for me to take two weeks before I start playing well on this surface."

This evening's was to be the second meeting between Agassi and Chang in the round robin event.

"Losing 6-1, 6-0 to Andre earlier this week, that's enough to pump me up for this match," Chang said.

The afternoon match at the Horseshoe Bend Country Club lasted 54 minutes as Agassi took advantage of Noah's injured right Achilles tendon. Agassi's penetrating baseline game proved too much for Noah, who served eight aces.

"It's not like I can just win on one leg, especially against a player like (Agassi)," Noah said. "If I'm not running 100 per cent, then my game is not as good. I can't hit the ball well and my concentration is off."

Agassi, who celebrated his 19th birthday Saturday, said the victory was a welcome one, coming in a year in which he so far has failed to reach a Grand Prix final.

"I'm not used to going to the finals this year, and it's taken a little bit out of me physically," he said. "So today was nice. Now I get to relax a little and get prepared for tomorrow."

"When you play a player like Andre, I have to run," Noah said. "I can't just win on one leg. My strokes are OK. You just have to be OK. The ball is. My service was about all I did today. My singing was OK, too."

Chang, ranked 62nd in the world, broke the second game of the first set. Lendl kept the service in the fourth game by firing an ace and without losing a point, but Krishnan again broke the sixth game.

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"I've never played someone who hits with so much speed from both sides. He doesn't have a weak stroke. If you play deep or short, he still plays with spin and fast."

"It's good to get this lesson. I've beaten some good players here but I still can't beat the best on clay."

"I think I'm going in the right direction but obviously it will take a while."

Mancini took the first eight games before Wilander held his serve and only cracked once — when he led 4-1 and 40-0 on his serve in the second set.

Five successive errors gave Wilander a break and the Swede then held serve to move back dangerously to 4-3. But the Argentine calmed down and wrapped up the game.

Becker brushed aside Skoff 6-3 6-3 in impressive style to reach his first Grand Prix final on clay, a surface he is rapidly showing that he has mastered at last.

"A week ago I was happy just to win the first round," he said. "But I've played the whole week against clay court players. I've played good tennis and beaten them all quite easily."

"It shows that you can count a little more with Boris Becker on clay."

Last week one would not have dared suggest that Becker would be a tougher opponent on clay than Wilander. But Mancini may well find that so in this evening's final.

Mancini, ranked 31st in the world, dominated the match so thoroughly that the Swedish world number two managed only seven points in a first set that lasted just 24 minutes.

The 19-year-old, who surprised Wilander last month by beating him at Key Biscayne in their only previous meeting, blasted winner after winner past the bewildered Swede.

"I didn't think I would beat him so easily," Mancini said. "I thought it would be a tough match but as I had beaten him once I thought I could beat him twice."

With his victory, Mancini advanced to only his second Grand Prix final. He beat Spaniard Emilio Sanchez to win his previous one in Bologna, Italy, last June.

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SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lawson wins

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain, April 30, (Reuters): World champion Eddie Lawson, taking control after his American compatriot Kevin Schwantz crashed with six laps to go, sped to his first victory of the season in the Spanish Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle race today.

Paris marathon

PARIS, April 30, (Reuters): Steve Brace of Britain won the Paris marathon today in a time of two hours 13 minutes and three seconds. Paul Klimes of Czechoslovakia was second and Belgium's Peter Daenens finished third in the race, in cool but sunny weather.

Date change

VALENCIA, Spain, April 30, (Reuters): A request by Spaniard Seve Ballesteros that the dates for the World Cup in Spain in November be changed to enable him to play was turned down by the International Golf Association (IGA) today.

Fuji race

GOTEMBA, Japan, April 30, (AP): The Omron Porsche driven by Vern Schuppan of Australia, Eje Elgh of Sweden and Japan's Keiji Matsumoto won the all-Japan Fuji 1,000-kilometre (625-mile) race by 14 seconds today.

W. German soccer

BONN, April 30, (Reuters): West German First Division soccer results yesterday. Bayer Uerdingen 3 Bayer L. 1, Eintracht F. 2 VfB Stuttgart 1, W. Mannheim 2 Karlsruher 0, Bayern Munich 4 Hannover 2, Stuttgart K. 1 Borussia D. 0, St. Pauli 1 Werder B. 0, Cologne 3 Borussia M. 1, Nuremberg 2 Kaiserslautern 1, Bochum 2 Hamburg 1.

IOC chief

BARCELONA, Spain, April 30, (Reuters): International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch was recovering in hospital today from a digestive disorder and was expected to be allowed home in the next few days, doctors said.

Hermitage Classic

NASHVILLE, Tenn., April 30, (Reuters): Kathy Postlewait used some smooth putting to come from two strokes off the pace and claim the lead yesterday after 36 holes of the Hermitage Classic women's golf tournament.

Soviets triumph

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, April 30, (AP): The Soviet Union clinched the World Hockey Championship last night, edging Canada 5-3.

English Cup

LONDON, April 30, (Reuters): Skipper Stuart Barnes led Bath to a 10-6 victory over Leicester in the English Cup rugby union final at Twickenham yesterday, scoring all his team's points with a try and two penalties.

Fiji triumph

WELLINGTON, April 30, (Reuters): Fiji beat Canterbury 23-19 (half-time 11-6 to Fiji) in the South Pacific Championship Rugby Union match at Christchurch's Lancaster Park today.

Rangers clinch title

Tottenham rout Millwall

LONDON, April 30, (Reuters): Resurgent Tottenham underlined their sweeping change of fortune this season by trouncing Millwall 5-0 away on a day when the top four teams in the English Soccer League were not in action.

In Scotland, Glasgow Rangers lifted the Premier League crown when they crushed Hearts 4-0 and nearest rivals Aberdeen were held to a goalless draw by Celtic.

A hat-trick by striker Paul Stewart fired Tottenham to a victory that kept the London club in fifth place — a stark contrast to their plight five months ago when they were next to bottom of the 20-team division.

Tottenham's multi-million dollar team stole the spotlight while the First Division title battle still awaited a resumption following the Hillsborough Stadium disaster which claimed 95 lives two weeks ago.

Liverpool, in mourning for their fans who were crushed to death at the FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest, return to their title defence next Wednesday, and leaders Arsenal face third-placed Norwich tomorrow.

Rangers clinched the League title for the second time in three years with one of their most accomplished performances in which two goals apiece from Mel Sterland and Kevin Drinkell helped to brush aside visitors Hearts.

Manager Graeme Souness has spent in excess of £8 million (\$13 million) in his search for a trophy-winning team, who have now completed the second stage of their bid for a treble triumph.

Having captured the League Cup and League championship, Rangers can complete a clean sweep of the domestic trophies by beating Glasgow arch rivals

Celtic in the Scottish Cup final next month.

Tottenham's free-scoring performance against their London rivals continued an impressive sequence in which they have now won nine and drawn four of their last 14 League games.

With England pair Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne playing telling creative role, Tottenham took charge with a goal apiece from Paul Walsh and Stewart in the first half.

Stewart added his second after 75 minutes, substitute Vinny Samways notched the fourth, and Stewart completed his hat-trick on the stroke of full-time.

Wimbledon romped to a 4-0 home win over Newcastle that left the visitors' hopes of retaining their First Division status in tatters.

Three goals in 11 minutes late in the second half from Paul Miller, Vinny Jones and Steve Cottrell wiped out Newcastle's chances of a comeback after they had restricted the FA Cup holders to a 26th minute penalty by Dennis Wise.

With the last three clubs being relegated, Newcastle, in 19th place, and West Ham, bottom but without a game yesterday, appeared doomed.

Luton, 18th, gave themselves a glimmer of hope by seizing a 3-0 win on their artificial pitch against Derby.

A foul by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton on Luton midfielder David Preece in the first minute presented the home side with a spot kick converted by Danny Wilson. Second half goals by Mick Harford and Kingsley Black sealed success.

Luton's prospects of survival may hinge on a key match next Tuesday against Charlton, a point ahead in 17th spot.

Results

English Division One	
Aston Villa	1
Luton	3
Manchester U	0
Millwall	0
QPR	0
Wimbledon	4
English Division Two	
Bournemouth	3
Bradford	2
Crystal P	1
Hull	0
Ipswich	4
Oldham	2
Oxford	2
Portsmouth	2
Sheff Wed	1
Stoke	1
Sunderland	1
Walsall	2
English Division Three	
Aldershot	1
Brentford	1
Bristol City	0
Bury	0
Chesham	1
Fulham	1
Huddersfield	3
Northampton	3
Preston	2
Rotherham	6
Gillingham	2
Southend	1
English Division Four	
Barnley	3
Doncaster	0
Exeter	2
Gillingham	2
Grimsby	0
Lincoln	0
Leyton Orient	1
Peterborough	3
Rotherham	0
Wrexham	0
York	3
Torquay	0
Tranmere	1
Scottish Premier Division	
Aberdeen	0
Dundee	1
Hibernian	1
Motherwell	4
Rangers	4
Scottish Division One	
Airdrieonians	3
Clyde	0
Forfar	1
Kilmarnock	0
Queen of S	1
Raidh	0
St Johnstone	0
Scottish Division Two	
Aberdeen	2
Arbroath	3
Cowdenbeath	0
East Fife	1
East Stirling	2
Montrose	0
Stirling	2
Stranraer	2

French World Cup hopes fade further

PARIS, April 30, (Reuters): France's already slender hopes of reaching the 1990 World Cup soccer finals faded still further yesterday when they drew 0-0 with Yugoslavia.

The dismal display by manager Michel Platini's team leaves the former European champions in third place in qualifying Group Five, five points adrift of leaders Scotland

with four points from five matches. The result virtually ensures that second-placed Yugoslavia, two points clear of the French having played a game less, will join the Scots in next year's finals in Italy as the two qualifiers from the group.

Despite playing with three attackers, the French failed to find the net for the fourth

match in a row. Now with only three matches left, France look almost certain to be eliminated from a World Cup finals for the first time since 1974.

The Yugoslavs proved what many French fans know — their team of mainly young and inexperienced players is not worthy of a place among the game's elite.

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Belgium survive scare

BRUSSELS, April 30, (Reuters): A goal in each half from Marc Degryse earned Belgium to a 2-1 win over Czechoslovakia yesterday which lifted them back to the top of their World Cup qualifying group.

Degryse opened the scoring in the 30th minute with a right-footed volley after fine work from Marc Emmers, who rounded

two defenders before crossing the ball.

Milan Luhovy latched on to a Belgian defensive error to head the Czechoslovaks level 11 minutes later but Degryse struck again 13 minutes from time to secure both points and displace Portugal at the top of European qualifying Group Seven.

Napoli defeat Verona

NAPLES, Italy, April 30, (Reuters): An 18th-minute goal from Brazilian midfielder Alemao gave Napoli a confidence-boosting 1-0 Italian League victory over Verona yesterday ahead of their UEFA Cup final the next week.

Inspired by Argentine captain Diego Maradona, fully fit after a niggling back injury, Napoli never looked in danger against middle-of-the-table Verona.

The result leaves Napoli in second place in the League, five points behind runaway leaders Internazionale Milan, who play this evening.

Napoli, playing their League game a day early to allow extra preparation time for their first ever European final, met West Germany's VfB Stuttgart at home on Wednesday in the first leg of the UEFA Cup clash.

Parrott and Davis sail into snooker final

SHEFFIELD, England, April 30, (Reuters): John Parrott duly completed victory over Tony Meo yesterday to claim his place against defending champion Steve Davis in the final of the World Snooker Championship.

The 24-year-old Englishman needed to win just one frame from yesterday's concluding semifinal session to secure his first appearance in the final. And he wasted little time by taking the opening frame of the scheduled nine-frame session 82-16 in 12 minutes to complete an emphatic 16-7 win over compatriot Meo.

Top seed Davis strode confidently into his seventh successive final earlier yesterday when he completed a 16-9 victory over Scotland's Stephen Hendry.

Indians thrash Twins

Athletics beat Tigers

NEW YORK, April 30, (AP): Frank Viola, the 1988 American League Cy Young award winner, fell to 0-4 and Minnesota lost its seventh straight game last night as John Farrell allowed six hits in 8 2-3 innings to lead Cleveland Indians past the Twins 4-1.

Luis Medina homered, Oddibe McDowell sparked Cleveland offensively and defensively and Pete O'Brien boosted his Major-League-leading batting average to .408 with three doubles and two RBIs in support of Farrell, 1-1.

Minnesota has been outscored 47-17 during its losing streak.

The Twins have scored only 10 runs for Viola, who was 24-7 with a 2.64 era in 1988 but has a 5.26 era this season.

All four of his losses have come in the Metrodome, where he once won 19 straight and had lost just twice all last year.

Results	
American League	
Oakland Athletics	3
New York Yankees	8
Kansas City Royals	4
Cleveland Indians	4
Texas Rangers	7
Boston Red Sox	8
Seattle Mariners	4
California Angels	4
National League	
St. Louis Cardinals	8
Philadelphia Phillies	8
Montreal Expos	9
San Francisco Giants	4
San Diego Padres	5
New York Mets	5
Detroit Tigers	
Chicago White Sox	2
Minnesota Twins	1
Minnesota Twins	1
Boston Red Sox	6
Texas Rangers	3
Baltimore Orioles	5
Toronto Blue Jays	3
Los Angeles Dodgers	
Cincinnati Reds	0
Atlanta Braves	7
Pittsburgh Pirates	3
Chicago Cubs	4
Houston Astros	1

England sweep squash titles

HELSINKI, April 30, (Reuters): England easily retained the men's and women's European team squash titles yesterday with convincing wins over Sweden and Ireland respectively.


The top-seeded Englishmen beat second seeds Sweden 4-1 in their final while the women, champions for the past 11 years, triumphed again with an impressive 3-0 win over the Irish.

"The team did a very professional job. They had to play well, they did not take it lightly," team manager Chris Stahl said.


Del Harris inspired England's men to victory. Europe's top-ranked player did not concede a single point in the first two games against Anders Wahlstedt but relaxed when leading 8-0 in the third and needed four points to his opponent.

Even though third string Paul Carter lost in a tough match against Jonas Gornierup 9-10 9-3 2-9 2-9, the title was already assured after straight-game wins by Chris Walker and Bryan Beeson.

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